

On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: +297 582-7800 Tuesday, February 4, 2014



Snow mounts as a pedestrian walk along Flatbush Avenue on Monday Feb. 3, 2014 in New York. 5-8 inches of snow is expected and the National Weather Service issued a winter storm warning for the city and Long Island. Nearly 2,000 flights and 1,500 canceled flights have been reported nationwide in cities including Philadelphia, Newark, N.J., and New York.

(AP Photo/Bebeto Matthews)

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A winter storm dumped several inches of wet, heavy snow on parts of the eastern United States on Monday, snarling commutes and Super Bowl fans' trips

home, closing schools and government offices, and cutting power. Fat flakes fell in Philadelphia and New York, creating slushy sidewalks and streets and all but erasing

all memory of Sunday's weather in 50s. The storm began moving out of the region Monday afternoon, making way for another system expected to sweep in from the Plains with ice

and snow in time for the Tuesday afternoon rush hour. The National Weather Service reported about 8 inches of snow near Frostburg, Md., while parts of southern Ohio and West

Virginia got about 10 inches. Totals in the Philadelphia area ranged from 3 to 9 inches; New York saw as much as 7 inches by 3 p.m.

Continued on page 3

Report:**US airlines' on-time data is incomplete****SUSAN STELLIN**

© 2014 New York Times

Travelers on Monday experienced a new round of cancellations and delays as another winter storm grounded planes yet again. But many of those flights won't be counted as late or canceled in the government's on-time statistics.

A recent federal report found that passengers are getting only part of the picture, and that the industry's on-time performance is actually much lower than billed. And a proposed rule that would require carriers to provide a more accurate picture has itself been delayed - and has yet to be adopted more than two years after it was proposed.

On-time statistics capture only 76 percent of domestic flights at American commercial airports, according to a report released in December by the Transportation Department's inspector general.

These statistics do not include many segments of the industry that have grown in recent years: international flights, flights flown by Spirit Airlines, or many flights operated by regional carriers and other partners.

The proposed rule would increase the number of carriers required to report data about delays and cancellations, improving the accuracy of the on-time statistics that the government announces every month.

It is part of a set of passenger protections that began the lengthy federal rule-making process in April 2011, but the announcement of the final proposed rule has been postponed

multiple times.

The latest target date for its release, Jan. 24, has come and gone with no action by the Transportation Department, leaving passenger advocates irate.

"I'm totally frustrated by this," said Charlie Leocha, director of the Con-

tions, which have been under review by the Office of Management and Budget since April.

Perhaps a thornier problem for data collectors is how long passengers, not flights, are delayed, particularly with carriers operating near full capacity and few empty seats to ac-



Planes on a runway at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York. A recent federal report found that passengers are not getting an accurate account from airlines of how many flights are actually late or canceled, and that the industry's on-time performance is actually much lower than billed.

(Chang W. Lee/The New York Times)

sumer Travel Alliance, a passenger advocacy group. "I've written letters, I've stood in front of the DOT with a big banner, I've gone on TV. Now we're up to around 1,000 days since the rule was proposed."

The Transportation Department declined to discuss the inspector general's report, or the timing of the long-delayed passenger protec-

commodate travelers who get stuck - sometimes for days - because of a missed connection or canceled flight.

"Wouldn't that be something - if you could see how many passengers were delayed one day, two days or three days?" Leocha said. "I'm sure that would make people's jaws drop." □

Christie to take questions for 1st time in weeks**ANGELA DELLI SANTI**
GEOFF MULVIHILL**Associated Press****TRENTON, New Jersey (AP)**

— Chris Christie on Monday prepared to take questions for the first time in more than three weeks as his campaign looked for a way to pay for lawyers as a political payback scandal continues.

New Jersey's Republican governor gave a nearly two-hour news conference Jan. 9, the day after emails were made public showing that at least one of his top aides had a role in causing a major traffic jam at the foot of one of the world's busiest bridges. Since then, he has made public appearances but not opened himself to questions, except to schoolchildren at one event.

On Monday night, he was scheduled to appear on his "Ask the Governor" radio show, although it was not clear how much time would be given to questions on the scandal that has threatened his chances at running for president in 2016.

A special legislative investigative committee said Monday it had begun receiving documents it requested in response to 20 subpoenas it issued last month.

It's trying to learn how high up Christie's chain of command the traffic order went and whether the September operation was meant to punish a Democratic rival.

In a request to the state Election Law Enforcement Commission, Christie's campaign organization asked for permission to raise more money and to spend it on lawyers handling subpoenas issued by both legislative investigators and the U.S. attorney's office. Without more money, the campaign said it would not be able to answer the subpoenas.

Neither subpoena suggests the campaign "has engaged in wrongdoing," the campaign's lawyers said in their request.

A hearing before the election commission was set for Feb. 11. □

Push for preschool becoming a bipartisan cause**RICHARD PÉREZ-PEÑA**
MOTOKO RICH

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Preschool is having its moment, as a favored cause for politicians and interest groups who ordinarily have trouble agreeing on the time of day. President Barack Obama devoted part of his State of the Union address to it, while the deeply red states of Oklahoma and Georgia are being hailed as national models of preschool access and quality, with other states and cities also forging ahead on their own. For generations, it was largely Democrats who called for government-funded preschool and that remains the case in Congress, where proposals have yet to gain trac-

tion among Republicans. But outside Washington, it has become a bipartisan cause, uniting business groups and labor unions, with Republican governors like Rick Snyder of Michigan and Robert Bentley of Alabama pushing some of the biggest increases in preschool spending.

Analysts also see politics behind the shift at the state level, with preschool appealing particularly to women and minorities, groups whose votes are needed by Republicans.

"If you cast it as an issue of inequality, Republicans get their back up right away, but there's a sincere and growing concern on the part of a lot of Republicans about how to increase economic oppor-

tunity," said Ron Haskins, co-director of the Center on Children and Families at the Brookings Institution and a former policy adviser to President George W. Bush. "And politically, they also really want to change their image as the party that just says no, to find something with broad appeal that they can say yes to."

Not that any of these factors will necessarily change things in Congress, where Republicans have steadfastly opposed a proposal by Obama, who has called for a \$75 billion federal investment in preschool over 10 years, paid for with an increased tobacco tax.

But even those who agree that early education can reap long-term benefits

say policymakers should not bank on miracles. Mark Lipsey, a psychologist at Vanderbilt University who is leading a study of a voluntary preschool program in Tennessee that has shown early indications of some lasting social benefits for children who participate, said advocates sometimes made preschool sound "like you put them in the pre-K washing machine and scrub them clean and they come out after that." "But effects of poverty and disadvantaged environments don't work that way," Lipsey said. "It's a cumulative process and it's going to take cumulative efforts to make a big difference. There's potential here but we also have to be realistic." □

First of a one-two winter punch socks Eastern US



A woman carries one of her dogs through a snowy park, Monday, Feb. 3, 2014, in New York. Winter weather followed a day of unseasonably warm temperatures with several inches of snow in the eastern United States on Monday.

(AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

Continued from Front

Government offices, courts and schools closed in parts of Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia; scattered power outages were reported throughout the region. Speed limits were reduced on many major highways.

In New Jersey, Gov. Chris Christie declared a state of emergency with travel conditions hazardous. Nonessential government employees were dismissed early.

By late afternoon, the flight-tracking website FlightAware reported more than 4,300 delayed flights and 1,900 canceled flights nationwide in cities including Philadelphia, Newark, N.J., and New York. Inbound flights to those airports were delayed one to three hours because of snow and ice.

Russ Louderback, of Fishers, Ind., and his 11-year-old son Mason had gone to

New York to see the Super Bowl but suffered a triple whammy of bad luck: Their beloved Denver Broncos lost, they got stuck in an hours-long traffic jam leaving the stadium and their 3 p.m. flight home Monday was canceled.

"It was so congested we couldn't get out of New Jersey, even though we left early because our team lost," said Louderback, 57, a hotel executive.

Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer was among the stranded travelers after her return flight to Phoenix was canceled Monday, a spokesman said. Brewer attended the big game as part of the ceremonial handoff of hosting duties; next year's Super Bowl is in Glendale, Ariz.

Francois Emond, of Alma, Quebec, arrived at Newark Airport at 6 a.m. Monday to find his flight home had been canceled. Wearing a Seahawks championship hat and an ear-to-ear smile, he said he didn't care about the can-

cellation or the weather in light of Seattle's victory. He planned to spend an extra night at his hotel in New York.

"The night will be very short," Emond said. "When you win a Super Bowl for the first time, the night is very, very short."

In Connecticut, 71-year-old architect Frank Emery described messy conditions outside as he stopped at a coffee shop in New Haven. "A lot of people must have called in sick after the Super Bowl," he said. "It's not cleaned up as well as usual."

In Philadelphia, the airport experienced weather delays as long as four hours at one point Monday morning. But the flight home for Seahawks fan George

Shiley, 50, of Snohomish, Wash., remained on schedule at midday.

Shiley, a Seattle season ticket holder, had won a lottery for Super Bowl tickets. He and his buddy stayed in Philadelphia, about 85 miles southwest of the stadium in East Rutherford, N.J. "It's been a great trip. I joked that 'It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia' — and it was, until today," said Shiley, referring to the FX sitcom.

At least two deaths and one serious injury were blamed on the storm. In western Kentucky, where the snow began falling Sunday, a 24-year-old man died that night when his car skidded into a snowplow. On Monday, a 73-year-old New York City man was fatally struck by a backhoe

that was moving snow.

A 10-year-old girl was in serious condition after she was impaled by a metal rod while sledding north of Baltimore.

Another storm is likely to hit the same region beginning Tuesday night, bringing a combination of rain, freezing rain and snow, said Gary Szatkowski, a weather service meteorologist in Mount Holly, N.J.

Perhaps residents shouldn't be surprised, considering groundhog Punxsutawney Phil predicted six more weeks of winter on Sunday. There's also a possibility for a storm this weekend, Szatkowski said.

"I like to say Punxsutawney Phil agrees with me," he said. "Winter's not over, that's for sure." □

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GOP rivals appeal to conservative base in close Texas race

MANNY FERNANDEZ

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HOUSTON - One candidate has called for the impeachment of President Barack Obama. Another wants the National Guard to help secure the border. Yet another criticized the openly lesbian mayor here for marrying her longtime

partner in Palm Springs, Calif., saying it was "part of a larger strategy of hers to turn Texas into California." And all the contenders want to allow licensed Texans to carry handguns in holsters on their hips. Four powerful state Republican officials have been locked in a tight race for lieutenant governor - a job

graphic forces that might make Texas a competitive state for Democrats by 2020. But the battle to win the state's No. 2 seat shows that much of Texas remains, for now, neither blue nor even purple, but a deep shade of red. Dewhurst and Patrick have talked about repealing the 17th Amendment, which

learn about creationism." The candidates have been criticized by Democrats and even some Republicans for pandering to the far right. Asked if there had been Tea Party pandering, Patterson, 67, a former Marine who wrote the law that gave Texans the right to carry concealed handguns, replied, "Absolutely,"

the Senate and for helping facilitate Davis' rise to fame. Dewhurst was already seen as politically vulnerable after his loss in a 2012 runoff to Ted Cruz for the state's open U.S. Senate seat. Dewhurst's three rivals said he had failed to use procedural rules to end the legislative session before the



Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson speaks to gun-rights demonstrators in San Antonio. Four powerful state Republican officials -- Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, who is seeking re-election; state Sen. Dan Patrick of Houston; Todd Staples, the agriculture commissioner; and Patterson -- have been locked in a tight race for lieutenant governor; the primary is March 4, 2014.

(Michael Stravato/The New York Times)

that in Texas is no mere sinecure, but one with powers that rival the governor's when it comes to controlling what comes out of the Legislature.

A month before the March 4 primary, the race is illustrating the increasing shift of Texas Republicans to the far right, as the rivals - Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, who is seeking re-election; state Sen. Dan Patrick of Houston; Todd Staples, the agriculture commissioner; and Jerry Patterson, the land commissioner - try to appeal to the grass-roots and Tea Party conservatives who make up the bulk of the electorate in Republican primaries.

There has been much talk lately in national political circles about the demo-

established the election of U.S. senators by popular vote rather than by state legislatures, a favorite states' rights cause of the Tea Party. Staples has touted his sponsorship of the state constitutional amendment defining marriage as between one man and one woman. And all four candidates want the religious theory of creationism taught in public schools, despite the Supreme Court's 1987 decision that banned it from classrooms.

"Our children must really be confused," Patrick said. "We want them to go to church on Sunday, and we teach them about Jesus Christ, and then they go to school on Monday and they can't pray. They can't

though he said it was being done not by him but by his rivals. "It's the propensity, particularly of Patrick, to tell people whatever he thinks they want to hear." The race has also served as a postscript to one of the biggest legislative showdowns in Texas - state Sen. Wendy Davis' filibuster last year over a Republican-backed bill restricting abortion. The filibuster on the Senate floor turned Davis into a national Democratic star and laid the groundwork for her run for governor against Greg Abbott, the Republican attorney general. But it also put Dewhurst on the defensive, as many party colleagues blamed him for mismanaging the filibuster as the presiding officer of

filibuster began and failed to ensure the bill remained intact rather than stripped of a key provision, a move that set the stage for the filibuster when the bill came back to the Senate. "That whole episode was just absolutely failed leadership, and where does that all lead?" Patrick said. "That leads to Wendy Davis raising \$12 million, a lot of it from out of state, to come in and put a target on Greg Abbott and Republicans." Dewhurst, 68, has disputed those criticisms, pointing to the ultimate outcome - the signing of the abortion bill into law - as evidence of his leadership. He said he had learned from his loss to Cruz, who defeated him with Tea Party support. □



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JEMMA WYNNE

Convicted murderer escapes from Michigan prison

IONIA, Michigan (AP) — A national manhunt was underway Monday for a convicted killer who peeled a hole in two fences with his hands to escape from a Michigan prison before abducting a woman and fleeing to Indiana, where the victim and her vehicle were safely recovered, authorities said.

Officials were stunned by the brazen escape Sunday night of Michael David Elliot, who had a record of good behavior during his 20 years in custody. He wore a white civilian kitchen uniform to evade security and blend in with the snow at the Ionia Correctional Facility, prisons spokesman Russ Marlan said.

Prison fences were equipped with motion sensors to alert guards. The fences also carry electric current to shock anyone that touches them.

"It appears that did not happen. ... He was not zapped with electricity, and he was not picked up by the motion sensors," Marlan said.

Elliot, 40, then abducted a woman and stole her Jeep outside the prison. She later escaped when he stopped for gas some 100 miles (160 kilometers) to the south.

The woman's Jeep was found abandoned nearby later Monday.

"Residents in Shipshewana and surrounding areas: lock your residences and stay indoors. Only answer door for law enforcement," the LaGrange County, Indiana, sheriff's department said.

An alert was issued to law enforcement nationwide. The woman told police that Elliot was armed with a box cutter and a hammer and had said he wanted to get as far from the Michigan prison as possible.

"We had dog teams. We had a helicopter from the state police," said Michigan Corrections Department Director Dan Heyns. "The response was good but he'd left the area by the time we were mobilized totally 100 percent. It didn't take him long to get down to Indiana. ... His flight path now has expanded dramatically."

Nothing in Elliot's record suggested he might escape, said Heyns, adding, "This was an entirely one-man operation."

The woman was able to call police from a concealed cellphone while he was pumping gas. She ran to a restroom, where she



An image from a video surveillance camera release by the Michigan State Police shows Ionia Correctional Facility escapee Michael David Elliot, 40, at an Indiana Marathon gas station late Sunday night. A national manhunt was underway Monday for Elliot, a convicted killer who escaped Sunday from the Ionia Correctional Facility in Michigan.

(AP Photo/Michigan State Police)

locked herself inside. Elliot knocked on the door, but she stayed inside until police arrived and wasn't harmed.

Elliot was discovered missing from the prison about 9:30 p.m. Sunday, probably 2 ½ hours after he escaped by using his hands to create a hole in two fences, Marlan said.

"There was a perimeter vehicle with an armed officer who was circling the facility during this time period. (Elliot) was able to evade or avoid detection," Marlan said.

He said it wasn't immediately known if electronic security measures at the fence were not working or if Elliot somehow avoided them. □



Gay rights activists arrested in Idaho

JOHN MILLER
Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — Police arrested dozens of gay rights activists Monday after a protest that blocked entrances to the Idaho Senate chambers for more than two hours.

Former state Sen. Nicole LeFavour, the Idaho Legislature's first openly gay lawmaker and an organizer of the protest, was among the 43 people that police said they arrested. She had said the group would block the entrances until lawmakers agreed to take up a bill adding anti-discrimination protections for gay and transgender people or until protesters were removed by authorities.

The issue of gay rights has

become prominent in the western state. In a pending federal case, four couples have sued to overturn Idaho's 8-year-old ban on gay marriage.

The demonstrators intended to call attention to a bill that would add sexual orientation and gender identity to a state law banning discrimination in employment, housing and business services.

Republicans have blocked passage of such a proposal for eight years, and they have declined to give a hearing to such a plan this year.

The protesters now face misdemeanor trespassing charges, punishable by up to six months in jail and a \$1,000 fine. □

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Volkswagen's US workers will vote on union next week

DEE-ANN DURBIN
AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — Workers at Volkswagen's only U.S. factory will decide next week whether to be represented by the United Auto Workers union. German automaker Volkswagen AG said Mon-

day that it has asked the National Labor Relations Board to conduct a vote at its Chattanooga, Tennessee, plant Feb. 12 through 14. The plant, which makes the Passat sedan, has around 3,000 workers. "Employees have the right

to decide, by voting in a secret ballot election, on a matter that concerns their own interests," said Sebastian Patta, the plant's vice president of human resources, in a company statement. "Volkswagen respects this democratic right

at all locations worldwide." German law gives labor representatives half the seats on the Volkswagen's supervisory board, where some members have raised concerns about the Chattanooga plant being alone among the company's

large factories without formal labor representation. The vote is a partial victory for the UAW, which said in September that a majority of workers at the plant had signed cards supporting union representation. The union has had little success so far in organizing foreign-owned U.S. plants, particularly in the South. Currently, the UAW represents just one foreign-owned U.S. factory, a Mitsubishi plant in Normal, Illinois, with around 1,000 workers. But while the UAW had hoped to represent the workers based on the signatures it collected, opponents — including Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam and U.S. Sen. Bob Corker, both Republicans — had called for a secret ballot.

Workers at the Chattanooga plant will vote on whether to let the UAW establish a German-style works council which will represent employees on issues such as working conditions and plant efficiency. The UAW would negotiate wages and benefits. Under Tennessee's right-to-work law, workers would not have to join the union to be represented. UAW President Bob King said if it's established, the works council model would be the first of its kind in the U.S. and would set a new standard for labor and management cooperation. "The historic success of the works council model is in line with the UAW's successful partnerships with the domestic automakers and its vision of the 21st century union," King said.

King has said in the past that the organization of foreign-owned plants is critical to the future of the UAW, which has been shrinking for decades as General Motors Co., Ford Motor Co. and Chrysler Group close plants and hire fewer workers.

Ford, GM, Toyota fall with January temps

DEE-ANN DURBIN
TOM KRISHER

AP Auto Writers
DETROIT (AP) — Frigid temperatures and snowy weather generally kept buyers away from auto showrooms last month, with Ford, General Motors, Toyota and Volkswagen all reporting declines from a year ago.

But Chrysler, Nissan and Subaru and Hyundai dealers were happy. Sales ran counter to the thermometer and were up for all three brands.

January is usually a slow month for auto sales, but the polar vortex likely slowed things even more. Industry analysts predicted little or no sales gains last month compared with a year ago. Ford said the industry saw double-digit sales gains in the West, where the weather was good, but big declines in other regions.

Dealers saw the impact firsthand.

"When you go three days when no one comes on the lot, it's a little tough to be up to average," said Timothy "Bruce" Detweiler, dealer principal of a Buick-GMC dealer near Pittsburgh. Temperatures there were near or below zero for several straight days.

GM said its sales dropped 12 percent compared with the same month a year earlier, while Ford and Toyota each were down 7 percent. Volkswagen

slumped 19 percent.

But Chrysler's U.S. sales advanced 8 percent, while Nissan's rose nearly 12 percent. Subaru saw a 19 percent increase, and Hyundai reported its best

cent over last January.

Weather disrupted production at several auto plants last month, even as far south as Montgomery, Alabama, where a Hyundai factory was down for two

back to pre-recession levels and better than last year's 15.6 million.

Ford blamed the weather for its sales decline. Sales of the Ford Focus small car plunged 26 percent from



A buyer moves between rows of Ram pickup trucks and Dart sedans at a Dodge dealership in Littleton, Colo. Chrysler says its U.S. sales rose 8 percent in January 2014, as it posted strong growth despite the frigid weather that gripped much of the nation.

(AP Photo/David Zalubowski)

January ever with sales up 1 percent.

Chrysler, Nissan and Subaru were boosted by new vehicles. Chrysler notched its best January in six years, with Jeep brand sales up 38 percent on the strength of the new Cherokee small SUVs. Nissan sales gained 11.8 percent, led by the redesigned Rogue small crossover SUV with sales up 55 percent. And sales of Subaru's redesigned Forester SUV jumped 64 per-

days. GM predicted an industrywide annual selling rate of 15.3 million for the month, just a touch above the 15.2 million rate January 2013. Sales of most of its high-volume models were down. The Chevy Silverado pickup, GM's top-selling vehicle, saw sales shrink by more than 18 percent.

But like many analysts, GM remained optimistic for the year, predicting total U.S. sales in a range from 16 million to 16.5 million. That's

last January, while sales of the F-Series pickup were flat. Ford's Lincoln luxury brand was the bright spot, with a 43 percent increase. Sales of the Lincoln MKZ sedan, which went on sale last spring, more than quadrupled over last January's anemic levels.

The company said the repeated winter storms and subzero temperatures disrupted deliveries to rental car companies and other fleet buyers.

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US Financial Front:

American factories expanded at slower pace in January

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. manufacturing barely expanded last month as cold weather delayed shipments of raw materials and caused some factories to shut down. The Institute for Supply Management, a trade group of purchasing managers, said Monday that its index of manufacturing activity fell to 51.3 in January from 56.5 in December. It was the lowest reading since May, though any reading above 50 signals growth. Manufacturers said export orders grew at a healthy pace but slightly less than in the previous month. The figures suggest that U.S. manufacturing is slowing after a strong finish to last year. Auto sales have decelerated, and businesses are spending cautiously on machinery and other large factory goods. The slowdown means that economic growth in the first three months of this year may be less than the strong 3.6 percent annual pace in the second half of 2013. In addition, China's factory output grew at a slower pace in January, a government report over the weekend showed. That report added to concerns that the world's second-largest economy is weakening. On the positive side, a measure of Europe's manufacturing sector showed that it expanded at the fastest pace in nearly three years. Some economists cautioned against reading too much into Monday's report on U.S. manufacturing, given the weather impact. George



Workers assemble ovens at the new Electrolux home cooking appliance factory in Memphis, Tenn. The Institute for Supply Management releases its manufacturing index for January on Monday, Feb. 3, 2014. (AP Photo/Adrian Sainz)

Mokrzan, chief economist at Columbus, Ohio-based Huntington Bank, said there were some "very unusual shutdowns as a result of the cold weather" at auto plants and other factories. "I'd be a little bit cautious about interpreting too much from this report," Mokrzan said. "If we don't get a bounce next month, I would start asking deeper questions." Monday's report showed that a measure of new orders plummeted 13.2 points to 51.2. That is the steepest drop since December 1980. A gauge of production also fell. Factories added jobs, the report showed, but at a slower pace.

Bradley Holcomb, chair of the ISM's survey committee, said cold weather affected the report in several ways. □

Newly wary, some Americans vow 'cash only'

HILARY STOUT

© 2014 New York Times

Like dieters vowing to trade cupcakes for carrots, a number of American shoppers are making a new pledge: cash only. The drumbeat of disclosures about credit and debit card breaches at major retailers (and hints of more to come) has unnerved consumers to the point where cyber and water cooler chatter is filled with people promising to curb their plastic habits. "This is CRAZY. First my Target card, now this," wrote Lorraine McCullough on the Michaels Stores Facebook page last week after the arts and crafts chain said that it was investigating whether customer

data had been exposed. "I am going to pay cash from now on." With Senate hearings on the recent Target breach and the security of consumer data scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, discussion about what consumers can do on their own is likely to grow even louder. A poll released last week by The Associated Press and GfK Public Affairs & Corporate Communications found that 37 percent of Americans had made an effort to use cash instead of credit or debit cards to pay for purchases as a result of the recent data thefts - almost as many as those who checked personal credit reports because of the thefts. (Just 29 percent

said they had changed passwords or requested new credit or debit cards.) Even attempting to use cash more often is a strange adjustment for a population that has become accustomed to the convenience of pulling out a little plastic rectangle for purchases as small as a Diet Coke. Many people now swipe their cards with so little thought that they don't even bother getting the receipt. Whereas cards were once reserved for big purchases, they have become acceptable for almost anything, including at formerly all-cash businesses like New York City taxis. With a variety of new forms of mobile payments, paper money has almost be-

come an antiquated concept for some people, like a purse of gold coins. Nicole McNamee of Germantown, Tenn., used a card for almost everything, even the \$1 cups of coffee she routinely bought at the local McDonald's drive-thru. Then, last month, she and her husband learned of fraudulent charges on her personal American Express card and a card he uses for his business. Startled, they decided to follow the lead of some friends and take the pledge: cash only, whenever possible. Still, despite the talk, no hard data exists to indicate whether significantly more consumers actually are using cash. □

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'Mass-Transit Super Bowl' hits rough patches

MATT FLEGENHEIMER

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About four hours before Sunday's Super Bowl kick-off, fans of all jersey colors appeared to achieve a moment of angry unity while stuck inside a Secaucus, N.J., rail station. The air was stale, the heat had become blistering and the ordeal was going on and on, approaching an hour.

"AC! AC!" the fans shouted in a plea for cooler conditions as they strained to get a little closer to the connecting trains to MetLife Stadium.

"Welcome to New Jersey," said a police officer as foot traffic ground to a standstill yet again. He was kidding, sort of.

Billed by organizers as the first "mass-transit Super Bowl," Sunday's game drew many visitors to the area's labyrinthine transportation network for the first time. Reviews were decidedly mixed, and there were occasional scenes of large-scale confusion at some of the region's transit hubs.

With parking spaces at the stadium severely restricted for the game, Super Bowl organizers decided to rely heavily on trains and buses, which are normally used on a considerably smaller scale for New York Jets and New York Giants games.

As a result, the spotlight shone brightest, for better or worse, on New Jersey Transit, which provides the rail link to the stadium. Crowds boarded en masse at Pennsylvania Station in Manhattan and traveled to Secaucus Junction, where people were then required to show game tickets before boarding connecting trains to the stadium, which is in East Rutherford, N.J. It took a while.

After the game, for which about 28,000 fans used New Jersey Transit, congestion at the MetLife station was so significant that

fans were asked to remain inside the stadium. As of 11:20 p.m., nearly 90 minutes after the game had ended, about 13,000 people had been transported by train from the complex, a spokesman for the transit agency said.

The lines of fans waiting to head back to Secaucus were sprawling but mostly orderly, and would probably have been worse if the game had been closer

and out of New York daily. Eventually, things seemed to smooth out some, but by then, many passengers had already passed judgment.

In the steamy, uncomfortable backup in Secaucus, Karin Rivale, of Aurora, Colo., predicted that she would lose about 5 pounds before reaching the stadium. As she spoke, people around her began peeling off layers.

"Caucus!" Budreau replied. In addition to the many who traveled by train, a significantly larger number used buses of various sorts, including several thousand on a temporary bus fleet known as the Fan Express, which allowed people to board at one of nine locations in New York and New Jersey for a \$51 round-trip fare.

(STORY CAN END HERE. OPTIONAL MATERIAL FOL-



Fans walk through the Frank R. Lautenberg Rail Station in Secaucus Junction to catch a connecting train to MetLife Stadium in Secaucus, N.J., Feb. 2, 2014. The fans are traveling to Super Bowl XLVIII between the Denver Broncos and Seattle Seahawks in East Rutherford, N.J.,

(Michael Appleton/The New York Times)

and a lot of Denver fans had chosen to stay to the end.

As it was, the many Seattle fans on the postgame line took it all in stride, too happy to complain about anything.

"Being Super Bowl champs, you can put up with a lot," said a Seahawks fan, Mark Duffy, 53.

Hours earlier, fans had been less forgiving. For a chunk of the afternoon, the crucial train transfer at Seacaucus - typically a simple walk through the station - remained uncomfortably tangled, rankling fans unaccustomed to the whims of the transit systems that move many people in

Several fans wondered aloud what had become of what was supposed to be a historic cold-weather Super Bowl. Other jeers included shouts of "TSA!" in reference to the federal Transportation Security Administration and its airport security lines, and "Blame Christie!" a jab at New Jersey's embattled governor who is now ensnared in an investigation into a traffic jam of an entirely different kind.

When one group of stuck fans attempted a call-and-response chant of "Sea!" and "Hawks!" a Broncos fan, Matt Budreau, decided to intercede. "Sea!" the fans said.

LOWS.)

One lane of the Lincoln Tunnel was dedicated exclusively to the buses, which sold out early in the week. As for parking passes, they were sold for \$150 or more, and some were offered on eBay for as much as \$350. Ordinarily, they go for \$25-\$35.

For the first time in the Super Bowl's history, officials said, there was no drop-off zone for taxis. Pedestrians were also barred from entering the security perimeter, though some cabbies seemed disinclined to inform their passengers: Throughout the afternoon, cabdrivers left dozens of people near the stadium,

Super Bowl has security breach after the game

STEVE EDER

KEN BELSON

© 2014 New York Times

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. - Tens of millions of dollars were spent securing the Super Bowl and the events beforehand, but perhaps the most bizarre security breach happened after the game, when Malcolm Smith, the game's most valuable player, was speaking with reporters.

He finished saying that he never thought he would win the award when a man leapt on the platform and grabbed the microphone.

"Investigate 9-11; 9-11 was perpetrated by people in our own government," he said.

Smith looked to the side for help, and Harvey Greene, a Miami Dolphins spokesman who was running the news conference, jumped forward and pushed the man, dressed in a red-and-black flannel shirt, off the stage.

"Let's check his press pass," he added with a smile.

Stephen Jones, a spokesman for the New Jersey State Police, identified the man as Matthew Mills, 30, of Brooklyn and said he was being charged with criminal trespass.

NFL officials said they were looking into the matter.

Earlier Sunday, fans made their way to the game in the midst of armored vehicles, Hummers, metal detectors, police helicopters and bomb-sniffing dogs.

"It would be very hard for someone to get something through security," said Randy Owen, 46, of Manhattan, who spent more than three hours with his 9-year-old son, Timothy, making the trek to MetLife Stadium, often reminding him not to take out his game ticket just yet. □

French business delegation in landmark Iran visit

ALI AKBAR DAREINI

Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — A large French business delegation arrived in Iran on Monday hoping to revive economic ties amid the easing of Western sanctions following a landmark agreement over Tehran's disputed nuclear program. The group of more than 100 potential investors is the largest European business delegation to visit the Islamic Republic in over 30 years. They met private Iranian business leaders on Monday and are to attend an Iranian-French business conference Tuesday. Executives from some of France's biggest companies, including energy giants Total, telecoms group Orange, power company GDF Suez, carmaker Renault and engineering firm Alstom are just part of the delegation on the three-day visit.

Semiofficial Fars news agency said other economic sectors such as information technology and hotel groups, as well as financial, banking and investment, water, aviation, cement, food industry, shipping, insurance and pharmaceutical companies are also represented in the delegation.

The visit follows similar delegations from the Netherlands, Germany, Italy, South Korea and other countries that have flocked to Iran recently to explore new trade opportunities after Iran reached a historic deal with world powers in Geneva on Nov. 24.

Under the six-month interim deal, Iran halted its most sensitive uranium enrichment activities in return for an easing of Western sanctions over its controversial nuclear program. Iran stopped enriching uranium to 20 percent, which is just steps away from weapons-grade, and started neutralizing its stockpile of it on Jan. 20 to meet its obligations under the historic accord. The U.S. and the EU simultaneously announced the lifting of sanctions on petrochemical products, insurance, gold and other precious metals, as well as the auto industry and parts and services for passenger planes.

They also plan to release \$4.2 billion Iranian assets of oil revenues blocked overseas, in 8 installments over a period of six months. The first installment of \$550 million was provided to Iran on Feb. 1, according to Iranian officials. Iran's state TV said the French business leaders met the Iranian president's chief of staff, Mohammad Nahavandian, a U.S.-educated economist who until recently headed Iran's Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Mines. He urged French business leaders to look at long-term projects in Iran. "At negotiations, look long-term, not short-term. Whoever looks long-term in Iran will be the winner," the semiofficial ISNA news agency quoted him as saying. "Iran is not only a market of 75 million people. It's the gate to Central Asia, a market of 350 million people." Iran's economy, battered by years of sanctions, has been showing signs of recovery since the nuclear deal, a shift toward market-friendly policy, and practical measures including the sanctions relief. □



A line of Peugeot 206's, containing its hatchback and sedan, are on the production line at the Iranian state-run Iran Khodro automobile manufacturing plant near Tehran, Iran. A large French business delegation arrived in Iran on Monday hoping to revive economic ties amid the easing of Western sanctions following a landmark agreement over Tehran's disputed nuclear program. (AP Photo/Vahid Salemi)

EU official warns Israel of isolation

JERUSALEM (AP) — The European Union's ambassador to Israel has warned the Jewish State that it would likely endure "increasing isolation" if peace talks with the Palestinians collapse.

Lars Faaborg-Andersen told Israel's channel 2 TV Monday that such a scenario wouldn't necessarily be a result of European policy, but rather the actions of private companies. His comments echo those made by U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, who is brokering the talks and who warned last week that the boycott would expand if talks fail.

The warnings caused uproar in Israel, with some officials condemning the remarks while others recommended the government take note. A small but growing number of European businesses have cut trade with firms involved in West Bank settlements. □

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Al-Qaida says it has broken ties with Syrian affiliate

RICK GLADSTONE

© 2014 New York Times

Al-Qaida's top leadership moved publicly on Monday to sever the organization's relationship with its Syrian affiliate, which has been widely blamed in recent months for stoking rebel infighting in Syria's civil war.

In a statement distributed on jihadist websites, the al-Qaida leadership said it no longer had any connection with the affiliate, the Islamic State of Syria and the Levant, which has asserted an increasingly important role in the Syrian conflict and stoked the enmity of other groups fighting to topple the government of President Bashar Assad.

While the authenticity of the statement could not be confirmed, the SITE Intelligence Group, an organization that tracks jihadist communications on the Internet, posted a summary of the statement on its website, suggesting it was credible.

The motivation for severing the relationship appeared to reflect the al-Qaida leadership's own effort to assert more influence over the jihadist elements of the Syrian insurgency and not side with one faction or another. The statement said al-Qaida disapproved of the Islamic State of Syria and the Levant and had "ordered it to stop" acting in al-Qaida's name.

According to a translation of the statement quoted by The Associated Press, al-Qaida condemned the rebel infighting in Syria. "We distance ourselves from the sedition taking place among the mujahideen factions and of

the forbidden bloodshed by any faction," the statement was quoted as saying.

Angered by what they called the arrogant behavior of fighters loyal to the Islamic State of Syria and the Levant and the organization's tendency to commandeer resources, other Syrian groups began

Syria, the Nusra Front, proposed a cease-fire in the rebel infighting and the establishment of a special Islamic court to resolve any disputes, but that solution apparently never advanced.

The nearly 3-year Syrian conflict has left an estimated 130,000 people dead and millions displaced,

of talks, the United Nations announced Monday that Brahimi's deputy, Nasser al-Kidwa, was resigning, effective this week.

Syrian officials had objected to al-Kidwa, a former foreign minister of the Palestinian Authority, which is negotiating with Israel over a future Palestinian state. Al-Kidwa also is a nephew



This file image posted on a militant website on Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2014, which is consistent with AP reporting, shows a convoy of vehicles and fighters from the al-Qaida linked Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) fighters in Iraq's Anbar Province. The past year, ISIL has taken over swaths of territory in Syria, particularly in the east. It has increasingly clashed with other factions, particularly an umbrella group called the Islamic Front and with Jabhat al-Nusra, or the Nusra Front, the group that Ayman al-Zawahri declared last year to be al-Qaida's true representative in Syria. That fighting has accelerated the past month.

(AP Photo via militant website)

to violently clash with it starting in late 2013. Many of the clashes were deadly and most were confined to the northern and eastern parts of Syria where the rebellion against Assad is most pronounced.

While the Islamic State of Syria and the Levant shares the common insurgent goal of deposing Assad and his followers, it wants to replace the government with a strict Islamic state.

In early January, another al-Qaida-linked group in

with no sign of resolution. Last week, the first face-to-face peace talks took place between the Assad government and an opposition coalition group, which ended in acrimony, although Lakhdar Brahimi, the special U.N. envoy for Syria, said further talks could take place later this month.

In what appeared to be a concession by Brahimi to the Syrian government aimed at ensuring its participation in another round

of Yasir Arafat, the Palestinian leader who died in 2004 and who was said to have been despised by Assad's father, Hafez, a former president of Syria.

A statement by the office of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, posted on the U.N. website, gave no reason for al-Kidwa's departure, but said he had indicated to Ban "his willingness to serve the United Nations in other capacities, should the secretary-general wish." □

North Korea agrees to talks on reunions

CHOE SANG-HUN

© 2014 New York Times

SEOUL, South Korea - North Korea agreed Monday to hold border talks with South Korea later this week to discuss arranging reunions where relatives separated by the Korean War would meet for the first time in six decades, officials here said.

North Korea last month agreed to restart the reunions after a three-year hiatus and asked South Korea to pick the dates. Last Monday, the South suggested that the reunions be held from Feb. 17 to 22 and that the two sides hold Red Cross talks on the border last Wednesday to sort out the details.

Despite the South's repeated appeals, however, the North had not responded for a week. On Monday, it said such talks could be held Wednesday or Thursday.

"We welcome the North Korean response, even if it is belated," Kim Eui-do, a spokesman for the South Korean government, said at a media briefing on Monday.

South Korea had hoped to hold the Red Cross talks last week to allow the Koreans time to prepare for the reunions before the South and the United States begin joint annual military exercises scheduled for late February. North Korea has denounced the drills for being what it says are a rehearsal for an invasion, and has used such exercises as a reason to scuttle or delay family reunions.

North Korea's announcement last month that it was ready to hold the reunions came as South Korea had repeatedly urged it to prove in "action" that it was serious about recent proposals by its leader, Kim Jong Un, to improve ties with the South.

But Seoul and Washington feared that the North's latest charm offensive might be a deceptive prelude to a new round of military provocations. □

Student Kills 2 at northern Moscow School

ANDREW ROTH

© 2014 New York Times

MOSCOW - A student opened fire in a high school in northern Moscow on Monday, killing a police officer and a teacher and holding two dozen other students hostage before being captured by police, a spokesman for Russia's Interior Ministry said.

The shooting, which occurred at School No. 263 in the Otradnoye neighborhood, forced the evacuation of hundreds of students. Others remained inside the school and another one adjacent to it as police searched for the gunman. No students were injured. "The school secretary came in, and she said

not to let the children out," said Maria Shukvina, a ninth-grader at the school. "Then I heard a loud bang, and she came back and told us to get our things and get out as quickly as possible." The spokesman said at least one other police officer was injured when the student fired from a window of a biology lab, where he

had held the hostages. As of Monday afternoon, the identity of the student had not been disclosed, nor had any possible motive. School shootings are rare in Russia, and the events Monday prompted unnerving comparisons in Russian news accounts to those that have occurred in the United States. □

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More than 400 dead dolphins washed up on Peruvian coast

LIMA, Peru (AP) — More than 400 dead dolphins were found last month on the Pacific Ocean beaches where twice that amount were encountered in 2012, Peruvian officials said Monday.

Authorities never established the cause of death in 2012.

They are doing autopsies now on the dolphins found in January in the Lambayeque region on the northern coast.

Technician Jaime de la Cruz of Peru's IMARPE marine life agency said about 220 dead dolphins were found the last week of January, the rest during the previous three weeks.

De la Cruz said autopsy results are expected in two weeks. Exams will focus on lungs, kidneys and livers.

Autopsies of some of the more than 870 dolphins found in 2012 were inconclusive. Speculation ranged from biotoxins in the sea to seismic testing to an unknown ailment.

Yuri Hooker, director of the marine biology unit at Cayetano Heredia University told The Associated Press that in other parts of the world dolphin deaths generally are caused by environmental contamination when the sea mammals eat fish or other smaller species filled with toxins.

Hooker said others die after ingesting discarded plastics floating in the sea. The marine biologist said that in Peru determining the death of dolphins is "complicated" because government laboratories only have three or four of the world's 100 or so reagents, or substances or compounds, that can be used for determining the animals' cause of death. □

Salvadoran leftist leads vote, but faces runoff

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (AP) — El Salvador's ruling leftist party appeared to win the presidential vote with over 99 percent of ballots counted by Monday, but candidate Salvador Sanchez of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front probably faces a runoff after narrowly failing to win a simple majority of votes. Presidential elections in Costa Rica were much closer, but that race also appeared headed toward a second round.

El Salvador's electoral tribunal said late Sunday that with 99.16 percent of the votes counted, Sanchez had won 48.92 percent of ballots. San Salvador Mayor Norman Quijano, the candidate of the long-governing conservative Nationalist Republican Alliance, known as ARENA, had 38.95 percent.

Former president Tony Saca, running for an alliance of three conservative parties, got 11.44 percent of the votes.

Sanchez declared victory in the first round and said

he wanted to ally with Saca's supporters for the runoff, which would be held March 9.

"We are going to construct understandings and new

the country's violent Mara street gangs had tried to stop his supporters from voting by taking away their identification cards, but prosecutors said they had

toral Tribunal Magistrate Fernando Argullo said 53.5 percent of the country's 4.9 million eligible voters turned out, well below the 61 percent turnout in the



San Salvador Mayor Norman Quijano, presidential candidate of the Nationalist Republican Alliance party, ARENA, poses for a selfie with supporters as he campaigns in San Salvador, El Salvador. (AP Photo/Esteban Felix)

alliances, and we are going to double the margin in the second round, now it won't be 10 points, it will be double that," Sanchez said. Quijano said members of

no immediate evidence of such incidents. Quijano said his party will fight hard in the second round. "Now we are starting a new battle," Quijano said. Elec-

2009 presidential elections, when the Farabundo Marti party made up of former guerrillas from the civil war won the presidency for the first time. □

Knox judge faces allegations of impropriety

**COLLEEN BARRY
Associated Press**

MILAN (AP) — The judge who announced the guilty verdicts against Amanda Knox and her former boyfriend Raffaele Sollecito for murder is facing allegations of impropriety that could result in disciplinary proceedings.

Defense lawyers for Sollecito, Knox's co-defendant, said Monday they will request disciplinary action against Florence Judge Alessandro Nencini because of comments the presiding appellate court judge made to Italian media about Sollecito's defense strategy following Thursday's guilty verdict.

Nencini was quoted as suggesting that Sollecito's decision not to testify may have worked against him by depriving the defense of a key voice during the proceeding. The defense said the judge's reported comments could form part of its planned appeal of the verdict against their client.

"This is not a vendetta because a judge handed down a verdict other than what we expected," defense lawyer Luca Maori said by telephone on Monday. Maori said Sollecito's defense will ask the magistrate's governing body, the Judicial Ministry, and Italy's supreme Court of Cassa-

tion to take disciplinary action, calling the comments on the defense strategy a "serious" breach.

Knox defense lawyer Carlo Dalla Vedova said in an emailed statement that the interviews were "not appropriate," but he reserved comment on any action until the court's reasoning for the verdict is issued, expected within 90 days of the sentence. Knox's defense also is planning to appeal the verdict. "She feels that it is a mistake and she will continue fighting for her innocence," Dalla Vedova said.

Members of the magistrate's governing body also said they will request

an inquiry, saying Nencini had violated the secrecy of deliberations, anticipated arguments in the yet-published reasoning, and made comments on the defense trial strategy that suggest "partiality," the news agency ANSA reported.

Disciplinary measures could include a transfer or monetary penalties.

Nencini was the presiding judge on a panel that deliberated for nearly 12 hours on Thursday before upholding a lower-court's guilty finding against Knox, 26, and Sollecito, 29, in the 2007 murder of 21-year-old British student Meredith Kercher. □

EU: Corruption costing bloc \$162 billion annually

JOHN DAHLBURG
Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — Corruption affects all member countries of the European Union and costs the bloc's economies around 120 billion euros (\$162.19 billion) a year, an official EU report published Monday said.

European Commissioner Cecilia Malmstrom, who presided over the first official EU-wide study on corruption, said the estimated amount lost annually due to padded government contracts, covert political financing, bribes to secure health care and other corrupt practices would be enough to fund the European Union's yearly operating budget.

All 28 EU member states suffer from some level of corruption, the report found.

"There are no corruption-free zones in Europe," Malmstrom told a news conference. "We are not doing enough. And this is true for all member states." The study does not rank countries according to the prevalence of corrupt practices, but Malmstrom acknowledged some of the "younger democracies" in Eastern Europe face special challenges. The report includes a breakdown of each EU member nation's problems and success stories.

The report found corruption is generally more present at local and regional levels, and that in some EU countries it is especially frequent when it comes to obtaining health care services, or in the construction and promotion of real estate projects in urban areas. Inflated government contracts are a particular problem, Malmstrom said. Government-financed procurement of goods and services accounts for 20 percent of all spending in the European Union, the commissioner said, and studies indicate that up to a quarter of the money expended may be siphoned off by corruption.

As for the private sector, four of 10 companies quizzed in one survey consider corruption an obstacle to doing business in the EU, Malmstrom said. □

Argentina slams Shell for fuel price hike

A. CALATRAVA

Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — Argentina's government on Monday accused Royal Dutch Shell of a conspiring attitude that goes against the country's interests after the oil company hiked fuel prices by 12 percent.

President Cristina Fernandez's government has issued several price control programs to try to tame inflation, which private economists estimate at around 30 percent. Rising consumer prices remain among Argentines' biggest worries.

Cabinet Chief Jorge Capitanich said Monday there's no "technical reasoning" behind the Anglo-Dutch company's price increase and said the oil giant is moved by "greed." Shell said in a statement that the measure was taken because of "the evolution of variables affecting Argentina's fuel market" as well as a strong rise in the cost of crude in the local currency.

Shell Argentina President Juan Jose Aranguren, told local Radio Mitre that the

cabinet chief is committing an "abuse" by using "such strong words against an oil company's duty to try to defend its interests inside the ongoing economy."

Aranguren also asked if there's any "greed" in raising fuel prices by 12 percent after the "supplier hiked the cost of the inputs by 23 percent."

Argentina suffers from a

shortage of dollars, one of the world's highest inflation rates and an inability to tap into global credit markets after it defaulted on a debt of more than \$100 billion during its 2001-2002 economic collapse.

The growing economic woes have led the center-left government to take a more confrontational position against banks and

economic analysts, whom they often say are trying to cause instability. Cabinet members have even said that a recent hard drop in the peso that shook global financial markets was fed by speculators including Shell. The company has denied wrongdoing. It's not the first time that Argentina's government taken aim at Shell. □



Two women walk by a digital price board displaying fuel prices at a Shell gas station in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Monday, Feb. 3, 2014. Shell increased prices an average of 12 percent.

(AP Photo/Victor R. Caivano)

Europe on the hunt for 'zombie banks'

DAVID MCHUGH

AP Business Writer

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) — In Europe, the zombie hunt is on.

Not for undead humans, that is, but zombie banks — the walking dead among lenders, too financially troubled to loan money to an economy that desperately needs investment, growth and jobs.

The European Central Bank, the lead crisis-fighter for the 18 countries that use the euro, is embarking on an extensive search through the books of the biggest banks. It's an arcane exercise — but one whose results will impact people's jobs, businesses and lives. The idea is to restore the system's ability to lend by weeding out lame banks. Previous efforts in 2009, 2010 and 2011 — by other EU offices with fewer powers — didn't do the

job. Some banks passed simulated "stress tests" on paper but needed bailouts soon afterward. So the ECB is putting its reputation on the line. Together with national regulators and the European Banking Authority, the ECB will first go through thousands of files from 128 of Europe's largest banks to hunt for hidden, soured loans and investments. That will be followed by stress tests that simulate how a bank would fare in a recession or crisis. Once the verdict is delivered in October, national bank regulators will be asked to push problem banks to raise capital by selling new shares to investors, restricting dividends — or even by being restructured or bailed out. That should help the economy in the long run.

But it's tricky. Forcing banks to fix their problems could

temporarily destabilize financial markets and cost investors and governments more money.

"The object is, no more doubts about European banks," said ECB Vice President Vitor Constancio, as he laid out the technical details of the exercise at a news conference Monday with Daniele Nouy, chair of the ECB's supervisory board.

He said the review would leave bank finances "totally robust and transparent to all investors."

This is Europe's latest try at sorting out the problems in its banking system left over by the global financial crisis and Europe's ensuing turmoil over government debt. The United States tackled its banking troubles earlier, in 2008-09, pushing banks to take new capital from the government. That helped the U.S.

recover from the recession. At the height of their debt crisis in 2012, European leaders decided to create a centralized supervisor to oversee banks. The idea was to take regulation away from national officials, who can be overly protective of their domestic financial institutions. They gave the job to the ECB, which now needs a clean slate in the banking industry before its supervisory board takes over the function in November.

Asked about the danger that the ECB might take it too easy on the banks, Constancio said, "We will uphold the reputation of the ECB, we will not put it at risk, and we cannot put it at risk."

Because so many banks are still in financial trouble, they are not able to lend much to businesses and households. □



Aruba Marriott Obtains Prestigious 2014 AAA Four Diamond Award

PALM BEACH - The Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino has received the distinguished American Automobile Association (AAA) Four Diamond Award 2014 in recognition to its outstanding quality and longtime commitment to impeccable service. The AAA Four Diamond Award is awarded to hotels that are upscale in all areas with gradually more superior and trendy accommodations, admirable physical attributes, extensive array of amenities, splendid attention to detail and excellent hospitality. Only 5.3 percent of the more than 29,000 hotels approved by AAA make the Four Diamond list.

To participate for the AAA Four Diamond Award, hotels undertake a thorough inspection of size, service and overall appearance. "We are honored to receive the AAA Four Diamond Award and will continue to create memorable experiences unique to each guest to ensure lasting customer satisfaction and loyalty to the Aruba Marriott", expressed Matt Knights, Hotel Man-



ager.

Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino, located on coveted Palm Beach, boasts 411 guestrooms each with private balconies overlooking cascading waterfalls, a free form swimming pool and tranquil Caribbean waters. Guest exclusivity is attainable on the eighth floor through the Tradewinds Club, a boutique, 'hotel-within-a-hotel' concept that is paired perfectly with the new adults-only pool and lounge area. On property dining options range from light to elegant with seven restaurants and cafes, while entertainment and relaxation can be achieved in the island's largest casino, or in the 6,500 square-foot spa. To obtain more information call the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino at 1.800.228.9290 or visit www.arubamarriott.com or www.tradewindsclubaruba.com. Connect with the Aruba Marriott's official Facebook fan page by visiting www.facebook.com/ArubaMarriott and follow on Twitter @ArubaMarriott. □



Loyal visitors honored by the Aruba Tourism Authority!



NOORD - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a group of loyal and friendly Visitors of Aruba, at the Caribbean Palm Village as Distinguished Visitors and Ambassadors of Goodwill. The symbolic

honorary titles are presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 and 20-or-more consecutive years. The honorees were Joseph Internicola of Everett, Massachusetts,



Richard and Carol Morse of Geneva, New York, and Wilson and Jeanne Craig of Deerfield, Massachusetts. The honorees are loyal members of the Caribbean Palm Village and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the climate, beaches, restaurants, and being on Aruba and staying at the Caribbean Palm Village is

like being home for them. The certificates were presented by Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tour-

ism Authority together with Mislady Fingal representing the Caribbean Palm Village. □

Beauty On The Beach

Luz Maria and Andree Schueler

These girls are visiting Aruba and staying at The Amsterdam Manor. Luz Maria de Rio is from Argentina and Andree Schueler is from America.



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Tuesday night: Don't miss Aruba's traditional Bon Bini Festival!

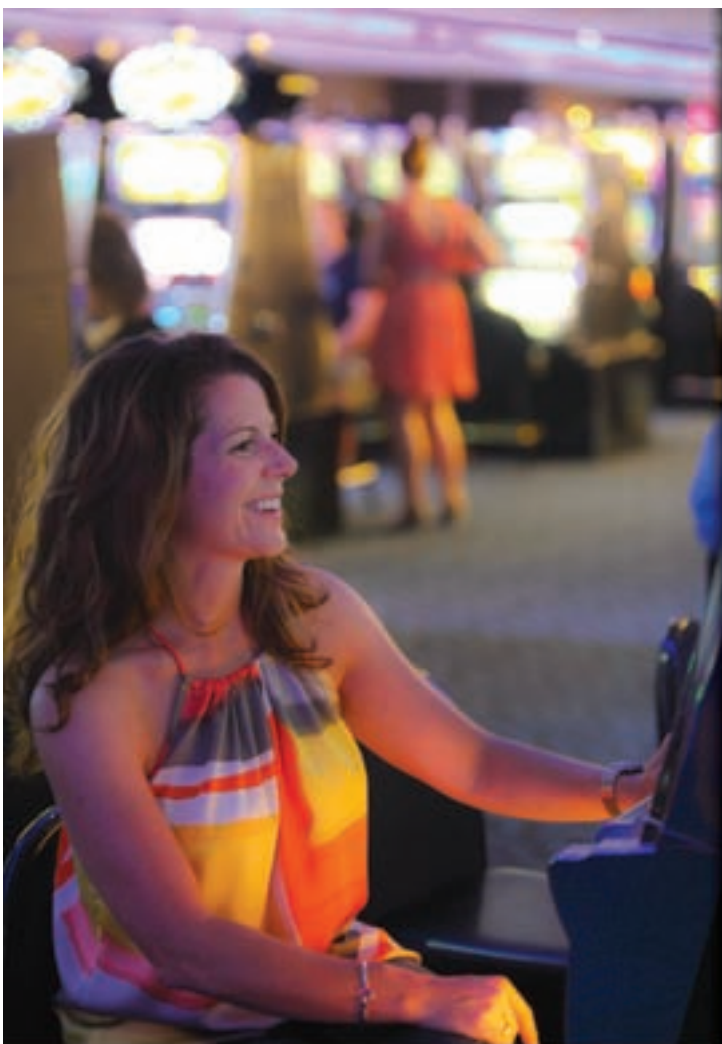
ORANJESTAD - The weekly Bon Bini Festival takes place every Tuesday night at the Fort Zoutman in Wilhelminastraat. Bon Bini is the only weekly folkloric event on the island. Come mingle with the locals and enjoy a taste of Aruban culture.

This week the festival will feature the traditional Aruba caha di orgel by Ban Baile, folkloric music by Tico Y Sus Estrellas, dance performance by Masiduri, trio performance by Jacobs Family, poetry by Laura Kock, soloist Hilyanne Croes and steel pan band The New



Generation. During the festival there will be local food, sweets and traditional local arts and crafts on sale. Arubus has regular buses from all hotels areas to Oranjestad Central Terminal, which is only a short walk from Fort Zoutman. The festival is from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Entrance fee is \$5. Come and experience a taste of our 'dushi' Aruba. □

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Seahawks ready to start work on Super Bowl defense

HOWARD FENDRICH
AP Pro Football Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Less than 12 hours after winning the Super Bowl, Seattle Seahawks coach Pete Carroll already was talking about getting started on next season.

"The first meeting that we'll have will be tomorrow. ... Our guys would be surprised if we didn't," Carroll said Monday morning. "We really have an eye on what's coming, and we don't dwell on what just happened. We'll take this in stride." He appeared at a news conference at a Manhattan hotel with linebacker Malcolm Smith, the MVP of Seattle's 43-8 victory over Peyton Manning and the Denver Broncos on Sunday night.

Carroll oversees a team with the fourth-youngest roster for a Super Bowl champion, with an average age of 26 years, 175 days, according to STATS. The youngest champs ever were the Pittsburgh Steelers who won the 1975 Super Bowl, and they collected a second consecutive



Seattle Seahawks head coach Pete Carroll holds the Vince Lombardi Trophy after the NFL Super Bowl XLVIII football game against the Denver Broncos Sunday, Feb. 2, 2014, in East Rutherford, N.J. The Seahawks won 43-8.

Associated Press

title the next year.

Seattle quarterback Russell Wilson just wrapped up his second season in the league, as did Jermaine Kearse, the receiver who caught one of the QB's two touchdown passes Sunday night. Doug Baldwin, who caught the other, is only three years into his pro career, as are star cornerback Richard Sherman and Smith, who at 24 is the fourth-youngest player to be the Super Bowl MVP.

"We've seen the effort that it takes to get to this point, and, obviously, we'll try to replicate that and do it again," Smith said. "We're looking forward to the next challenges and guys having a target on their back and people trying to come after us."

Smith became the third linebacker to earn Super Bowl MVP honors, thanks to a 69-yard touchdown return off an interception of regular-season MVP Manning in the first half and a fumble recovery in the second half.

Continued on Page 21



This is a Wednesday, Oct. 2, 2013 file photo of boxer Wladimir Klitschko of Ukraine attends an open training session in Moscow, Russia.

Associated Press

TIM DAHLBERG
AP Boxing Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Wladimir Klitschko knows he has an image problem with fans

in the United States, who for the most part pay the heavyweight champion little attention.

He wants to change that,

Klitschko wants to fight again in the U.S.

though not at the expense of his decade-long winning streak or his collection of heavyweight titles. "I understand the criticism that the fights are lopsided and kind of boring. I'm getting it," Klitschko said Monday. "But it's not so simple."

Not when Klitschko is matched up with the likes of Alex Leapai, whose only real claim to fame is that he's the WBO's mandatory No. 1 challenger. Klitschko will be an overwhelming favorite when he takes on

Leapai, a native of Samoa who lives in Australia, on April 26 in in Oberhausen, Germany. It will be the 25th heavyweight title bout for Klitschko, who has dominated most opponents with his size and reach. Once again, it will be outside the United States and in Germany, where the heavyweight is extremely popular. "I'm missing the fans in the U.S.," Klitschko said in an interview with The Associated Press. "The fan base is huge here and

I would love to fight back in the States."

Klitschko said that could happen after the Leapai fight, when he is expected to meet the winner of a planned fight between contenders Bernane Stiverne and Cristobal Arreola. That fight, which has yet to be signed, was ordered by the WBC for the title vacated by Klitschko's brother, Vitali, who resigned the belt to focus on leading the opposition political party in strife-torn Ukraine. □

U.S. to play Turkey in basketball World Cup group

JOSEPH WILSON,
Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — The United States will play Turkey in the group stage of this summer's World Cup of Basketball in a rematch of the 2010 final.

The rest of the opposition in Group C looks a lot easier, with the Americans also drawn on Monday to play the Dominican Republic, Finland, New Zealand and Ukraine.

Host Spain, meanwhile, has a tougher Group A with European champion France, Serbia, Brazil, Egypt and Iran.

The U.S. will open its title defense on Aug. 30 against wild-card entry Finland, with the Group C games played in the northern Basque city of Bilbao.

The U.S. beat Turkey in the final four years ago, when the tournament was known as the world championship. "We have some tough

teams in the group," said Team USA's executive director Jim Tooley. "Turkey is very strong. But we can't overlook anyone. We have learned that from the past." The U.S. and Spain are in groups on opposite sides of the bracket, meaning the title favorites can't meet until the Sept. 14 final.

Group B includes Argentina, Greece, Croatia, Senegal, Philippines, and Puerto Rico. Group D has Lithuania, Angola, South Korea, Slovenia, Mexico, and Australia.

The draw ceremony was held in the picturesque Palau de la Musica Catalana, an emblematic concert hall in Barcelona known for its beautiful Art Nouveau decorations. But the home audience groaned when France was placed in Spain's path after the hosts had already drawn Serbia and Brazil.

Spain coach Juan Oren-

ga said that the group has "four teams that can fight for a medal," but that might not necessarily be a bad thing.

"If you face tough adversaries at the start, things can be easier later as you advance," Orenaga said. "But we have to make it through the group."

The top four teams in each group advance to the knockout rounds to be played in Madrid and Barcelona, with the medal games in the Spanish capital.

Kevin Durant and Kevin Love have said they will return to the team, although the rest of the roster hasn't been set. Durant was named the 2010 tournament's most valuable player after leading the U.S. to victory in Istanbul.

"Durant and Love have come out as wanting to be the leaders of the group," Tooley said. □



FIBA's Sport Director Lubomir Kotleba shows a result paper bearing the name of the USA during the FIBA Basketball World Cup official draw for the 2014 world cup at the Palau de la Musica in Barcelona, Spain, Monday, Feb. 3, 2014.

Associated Press

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Miserable night at wrong time for Manning

TIM DAHLBERG

AP Sports Columnist

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey (AP) — The talk, at least before the Denver Broncos took a team vote and decided not to show up for the game, was that Peyton Manning might call an end to his career and ride off into the sunset after winning his second Super Bowl ring.

After as miserable a performance as you will ever see on a big stage by a future Hall of Famer, the Broncos might be excused if they just don't invite him back. They will, of course, because Manning can still put up big numbers and win more games than the average quarterback.

He actually set a Super Bowl record Sunday night by completing 34 passes, though the vast majority were meaningless short throws that the Seattle Seahawks were more than happy to give him in a 43-8 blowout.

But after a second Super Bowl flop where the 37-year-old seemed to be aging by the minute, it may be that Manning is destined to forever be among a large group of quarterbacks who win the big one only once.

Yes, he had plenty of help from teammates who couldn't hold onto the ball and others who seemed to forget how to tackle. Yes, the Seahawks have a suffocating defense filled with players who like to hit and strut and then do it all over again.

But it was Manning and center Manny Ramirez who set the tone with a miscommunication for the ages on the opening play from scrimmage. And it was Manning who threw two first half interceptions that gave the opportunistic Seahawks a lead they weren't about to give up. One of the greatest quarterbacks ever? Not this night, when Manning seemed jittery and unprepared against a Seahawks defense eager to stake a



Denver Broncos' Peyton Manning looks at the scoreboard during the second half of the NFL Super Bowl XLVIII football game against the Seattle Seahawks on Sunday, Feb. 2, 2014, in East Rutherford, N.J.

Associated Press

claim to greatness of their own.

He wasn't even the greatest in the Broncos locker room afterward, where John Elway stood against a wall and tried to give an explanation about something he couldn't explain. "You gotta play well in this game," Elway said. "Gotta play well to win."

That Manning didn't even come close was a shocker, after a season where he set NFL records with 55 touchdown passes and 5,447 yards while leading the league's top-ranked offense. He failed to become the first quarterback to win

Super Bowls with two different teams, and is 11-12 in playoff games.

Tom Brady has lost a few of these, but he never completely gave them away. Joe Montana wouldn't have even dreamed of it. Heck, it's hard to even imagine the other Manning sibling — who owns two rings of his own — losing like this.

"To finish this way is very disappointing," Manning said. "It's a bitter pill to swallow." That Manning was even playing at the end of the game is testament to his stubbornness, if nothing else. His night should have

ended on the previous Denver possession, when he was hit while throwing and fumbled the ball away for his third turnover of the game.

Maybe he just wanted to end with one good pass, and he did. After hitting reserve back C.J. Anderson on a throw across the middle for 14 yards, he settled for handing the ball off as the final seconds ticked off. Afterward, he dressed slowly in front of his locker, putting a knot in his tie and slipping on his suit coat. Then he trudged off, head down and hands in pocket, to the interview tent where he

knew the questions ahead. The play that sent the game into a tailspin was blamed on crowd noise, though Manning has played in far noisier places than a MetLife stadium that was filled with 82,529 people with divided loyalties. Manning said he was moving forward to change the cadence when Ramirez snapped the football past him and running back Knowshon Moreno fell on it for a safety that was the fastest score in Super Bowl history.

"It's not the way you want to start a game," he said. "For whatever reason we couldn't get anything going after that."

Someone then asked Manning if the Broncos were embarrassed by a blowout in a game they had entered as slight favorites.

"It's not embarrassing at all, I would never use that word," he said. "The word embarrassing is an insulting word, to tell you the truth." With that, Manning was gone, with as nifty of an escape as he had made all night. He had said he had a lot to think about during the offseason, and it was time for the thinking to begin.

He will be back, unless doctors who treat his neck say otherwise.

But it's hard to imagine how next season will end any better than this one did. □

Syracuse is new No. 1 in AP poll

By **JOHN KEKIS**

AP Sports Writer

SYRACUSE, N.Y. (AP) -- Syracuse's reward for winning one of the best college basketball games of the season was a spot on top of The Associated Press Top 25 poll.

Combined with No. 1 Arizona's first loss of the season last weekend, the Orange's 91-89 overtime win over Duke on Saturday moved them up one spot to the top. Syracuse (21-0) received all 65 first-place votes from the national me-

dia panel Monday, making the Orange the first unanimous No. 1 since Duke was for six weeks in 2010-11.

"We're happy to be No. 1," coach Jim Boeheim said Monday, hours before the Orange met Notre Dame. "Obviously, it's taken a lot of hard work. It's an honor. We'll try to keep playing well."

Syracuse, off to the best start in school history, is on top of the poll for the first time since a six-week run in 2011-12.

This is the 15th week all-time

Syracuse has been No. 1. Syracuse is the fourth team to hold the No. 1 ranking this season. Kentucky was on top for the preseason poll and one in the regular season while Michigan State was No. 1 for three weeks and Arizona, which lost to California hours after Syracuse beat Duke, for the last eight.

Arizona (21-1) and Syracuse, which were 1-2 for the last eight weeks, switched spots this week.

Florida, Wichita State, the only other unbeaten in Divi-

sion I, and San Diego State remained third through fifth and were followed by Villanova, Cincinnati, Kansas, Michigan State and Michigan.

Duke, which also won at Pittsburgh last week, was 11th, a jump of six spots from last week's poll.

No. 20 Virginia, No. 22 Connecticut and No. 23 Gonzaga returned to the rankings. They replaced Ohio State and Wisconsin, which both reached as high as No. 3 this season, and Massachusetts. □



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Seahawks

Continued from Page 18

He said that during the game, some of his teammates were telling him, "You might be the MVP."

"And I was like, 'No way. No way. Not me.'"

Carroll said general manager John Schneider has positioned the Seahawks to be able to avoid the problems that can make it hard to repeat as NFL champions. Since Denver repeated in the 1999 game, only one team has won two Super Bowls in a row, the New England Patriots in 2004-05.

There's the need to replace players who leave via free agency. The need to pay other players with new, better-paying contracts.

"John Schneider has done an extraordinary job of structuring this roster contractually, and with the vision of looking ahead, so that we can keep our guys together," Carroll said. "One of the things that happens every so often is teams have a big fallout after they win the Super Bowl. We're not in that situation."

Carroll was reminded during Sunday's game of some of his blowout victories in college football bowl games when he was a championship-winning coach at Southern California.

"It felt like it. It looked like it. The score was like it," he said Monday.

"I really can't tell you exactly what it is, but something's going on, because I sat back there at the end of the first quarter and said, 'Shoot, here it goes,'" he said. "Bang, bang, bang, bang, and it's 22-0 at half-time."

Carroll described the lopsided nature of the game as "kind of like an ava-



Seattle Seahawks head coach Pete Carroll, right, poses for a photograph with the Vince Lombardi trophy alongside Super Bowl XLVIII MVP Malcolm Smith, during a news conference at the Super Bowl Media Center at the Sheraton hotel, Monday, Feb. 3, 2014, in New York.

Associated Press

lanche," an interesting choice of words given the hubbub last week — and, really, for months before that — over whether the first outdoor Super Bowl at a cold-weather site would be affected by snow.

Instead, the weather wasn't a factor Sunday at the stadium in East Rutherford, N.J., where the temperature was 49 degrees at

kickoff and only some light rain fell.

On Monday morning, meanwhile, driving snow hit the area and forecasts called for up to 8 inches.

"I don't know how (NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell) pulled it off, but he pulled off the weather in perfect fashion," Carroll joked. "The NFL is powerful." □

Cilic, Becker reach 2nd round at Zagreb Indoors

ZAGREB, Croatia (AP)—Defending champion Marin Cilic of Croatia eased into the second round of the Zagreb Indoors on Monday, while Benjamin Becker of Germany had to save seven match points before advancing. The fifth-seeded Cilic beat fellow Croat Mate Delic 6-4, 6-4 in just 71

minutes, clinching the win with four aces in the last game. Cilic said his "serve was just great today, it sure helped ease the pressure." In Monday's other match, Becker beat Jesse Huta Galung 6-7 (4), 6-3, 7-6 (6) despite the Dutchman leading 5-3, 40-0 in the third set. □

David Beckham to discuss effort to bring team to Miami



In a Saturday, Feb. 1, 2014 file photo, former England soccer player and model David Beckham makes an appearance at H&M Times Square for his new men's underwear line, in New York.

Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — David Beckham will take part in a news conference Wednesday to discuss his progress in trying to bring a Major League Soccer expansion team to Miami.

MLS Commissioner Don Garber and Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez also will attend the session, which was announced Monday. The league has discussed placing its next two expansion teams in Miami and Atlanta.

Expansion in Miami is contingent on securing a financing plan and location for a new stadium. Beckham has scouted possible

sites and is seeking investors to assist with startup costs such as stadium construction and player acquisitions. Among those who might become involved is Beckham's friend LeBron James, who has had recent conversations with the retired football star about bringing a team to Miami.

"It's looking very promising," James said Monday. "Hopefully they can go in the right direction as we all planned. It's a great place for soccer."

MLS's Miami Fusion played in Fort Lauderdale from 1998-01 before folding because of poor attendance. □

Personal Health: A nemesis that's nothing to sneeze at

JANE E. BRODY

© 2014 New York Times

Peanut allergy has become a nemesis for increasing numbers of children and parents in recent years, forcing them to maintain nut-free households and prompting many schools to ban a childhood staple, peanut butter, from the lunchroom.

When a child is allergic to peanuts, families must closely monitor everything the child eats both in and outside the home, because accidental consumption of peanuts could prove fatal. Many airlines no longer offer peanuts for fear that an allergic passenger might inhale peanut dust and suffer a life-threatening reaction at 30,000 feet.

The prevalence of peanut allergy among children in the United States has risen more than threefold, to 1.4 percent in 2010 from 0.4 percent in 1997, according to a study by food allergists at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City. Most people with an allergy to peanuts are also allergic to one or more tree nuts, like walnuts, pecans or almonds.

To help protect such people from inadvertent exposure to nuts, labels on packaged foods must now state whether they were prepared in a facility that also processes nuts.

Some cities have nut-free bakeries that now sell products safe for allergic children, who can bring their own special, albeit expensive, cake or cupcake to a party.

While experts doubt the necessity of some extreme



Peanut allergies afflict an increasing number of children, and recent studies are changing the conventional wisdom about what causes them.

(Lou Beach/The New York Times)

measures taken to prevent indirect exposure to peanuts, the danger to someone with a peanut allergy who eats them is unquestioned.

The potentially fatal reaction, called anaphylaxis, can occur with a child's first exposure to peanuts: itchiness, swelling of the tongue and throat, constriction of the airway, a precipitous drop in blood pressure, rapid heart rate, fainting, nausea and vomiting.

Unless the reaction is stopped by an injection of epinephrine (adrenaline), anaphylaxis can kill. In one infamous instance in 1986, Katherine Brodsky, 18, a freshman at Brown University with a known nut allergy, died after eating chili that a restaurant had thickened with peanut butter.

There is no cure for nut allergies, although several preliminary studies suggest

that it may be possible to temper a reaction to peanuts with immunotherapy. Like shots given for pollen allergies, the approach starts with exposure under the tongue to a minuscule amount of the offending peanut protein, followed by exposure to gradually increasing amounts under strict medical supervision.

The latest study, conducted in Cambridge, England, and published in *The Lancet* last week, found that after six months of oral immunotherapy, up to 91 percent of children aged 7 to 16 could safely ingest about five peanuts a day, far more than they could before the treatment. About one-fifth of treated children reacted to ingested peanuts, but most reactions were mild, usually an itchy mouth. Only one child of the 99 studied had a serious reaction.

When immunotherapy works, the research suggests, the severity of the allergy is lessened, enabling an allergic person to safely ingest small amounts of the offending protein. It is not known how long protection lasts without continued immunotherapy, however, and the researchers warned that no one should try it on his own. Further study is needed before the treatment can be used clinically, probably years from now.

Ideally, allergists would like to prevent the development of peanut allergy in the first place. Experts had thought that one way would be to keep fetuses and breast-fed babies from exposure to peanut protein by restricting consumption by pregnant and nursing women.

Various studies had suggested that early exposure to peanut protein by infants with allergic tendencies could sensitize them and lead to a serious peanut allergy. In 2000, pregnant and nursing women were advised to avoid eating peanuts, especially if allergies ran in the family. And new mothers were told not to give babies peanuts before age 3, when digestive systems are more fully developed.

But this advice did nothing to curb the steady climb in peanut allergies, and it

was abandoned in 2008.

Today, the thinking is exactly the opposite. Instead of restricting exposure to peanut protein by unborn or nursing babies, the tiny amounts that may enter the baby's circulation when a pregnant or nursing woman eats peanuts might actually induce tolerance, not sensitization.

In a recent study of 8,205 children, 140 of whom had allergies to nuts, researchers found that children whose nonallergic mothers had the highest consumption of peanuts or tree nuts, or both, during pregnancy had the lowest risk of developing a nut allergy. The risk was most reduced among the children of mothers who ate nuts five or more times a month.

The researchers, led by Dr. A. Lindsay Frazier of Dana-Farber/Children's Hospital Cancer Center in Boston, wrote: "Our study supports the hypothesis that early allergen exposure increases the likelihood of tolerance and thereby lowers the risk of childhood food allergy." They added that their data "support the recent decisions to rescind recommendations that all mothers avoid peanuts/total nuts during pregnancy and breast-feeding."

The study was supported by Food Allergy Research and Education, a New York-based nonprofit, and published in December in *JAMA Pediatrics*.

According to an accompanying editorial by Dr. Ruchi Gupta, an associate professor of pediatrics at Northwestern University, "some studies actually showed that avoiding peanuts during pregnancy increased the risk of a child developing peanut sensitization."

Further support comes from studies of other common food allergens. In an Israeli study of 13,019 infants, those who were exposed to cow's milk protein as a breast-milk supplement in the first two weeks of life were less likely to become sensitive to it than infants first given cow's milk much later. □

Cancer cases worldwide to jump to 22 million

LONDON (AP) — The World Health Organization's cancer agency warns there will be 22 million new cases of cancer every year within the next two decades.

Monday's report from the International Agency for Research on Cancer estimated in 2012 there were 14 million new cases

but predicted that figure would jump significantly due to global aging and the spread of cancers to developing countries. The Lyon-based cancer arm of the WHO said more than 60 percent of the world's cancer cases are in Africa, Asia, Central and South America.

In 2012, IARC said the top cancer killers were those of the lung, liver and stomach.

The agency called for countries to consider stronger legislation to encourage healthier lifestyles, including measures to tackle consumption of alcohol and sugary drinks. □

Car-to-car talk: Hey, look out for that collision!

JOAN LOWY

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A car might see a deadly crash coming even if its driver doesn't, the U.S. government says, indicating it will require automakers to equip new vehicles with technology that lets cars warn each other if they're plunging toward peril.

The action, still some years off, has "game-changing potential" to cut collisions, deaths and injuries, federal transportation officials said at a news conference Monday.

A radio signal would continually transmit a vehicle's position, heading, speed and other information. Cars and light trucks would receive the same information back from other cars, and a vehicle's computer would alert its driver to an impending collision. Alerts could be a flashing message, an audible warning, or a driver's seat that rumbles. Some systems might even automatically brake to avoid an accident if manufacturers choose to include that option.

Your car would "see" when another car or truck equipped with the same technology was about to run a red light, even if that vehicle was hidden around a corner.

Your car would also know when a car several vehicles ahead in a line of traffic had made a sudden stop and alert you even before you saw brake lights. The technology works up to about 300 yards.

If communities choose to invest in the technology, roadways and traffic lights could start talking to cars, too, sending warnings of traffic congestion or road hazards ahead in time for drivers to take a detour.

The technology is separate from automated safety features using sensors and radar that are already being built into some high-end vehicles today and which are seen as the basis for future self-driving cars. But government and industry officials see the two technologies as compatible. If

continuous conversations between cars make driving safer, then self-driving cars will become safer as well.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, which has been working with automakers on the technology for the past decade, estimates vehicle-to-vehicle communications could prevent up to 80 percent of accidents that don't involve drunken drivers or mechanical failure.

Crashes involving a driver with a blood alcohol content of .08 or higher accounted for nearly a third of the 33,500 traffic fatalities in the U.S. in 2012, according to the safety agency.

The technology represents the start of a new era in automotive safety in which the focus is "to prevent crashes in the first place," as compared with previous efforts to ensure accidents are survivable, said David Friedman, the head of the agency.

No orders to automakers are imminent, officials said. After an agency report, the public and carmakers will have 90 days to comment, then regulators will begin drafting a proposal, and that process could take months to years. But Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx said it is his intention to issue the proposal before President Barack Obama leaves office.

"It will change driving as we know it over time," said Scott Belcher, president and chief executive of the Intelligent Transportation Society of America. "Automobile makers will rethink how they design and construct cars because they will no longer be constructing cars to survive a crash, but building them to avoid a crash."

Government officials declined to give an estimate for how much the technology would increase the price of a new car, but the transportation society estimates it would cost about \$100 to \$200 per vehicle.

Automakers are enthusiastic about vehicle-to-vehicle technology but feel there are important tech-



Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx, right, accompanied by National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Acting Administrator David Friedman, center, and Transportation Department Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology Greg Winfree, speaks about the Transportation Department's decision on vehicle-to-vehicle communication technology, Monday, Feb. 3, 2014, at the Transportation Department in Washington.

Associated Press

nical, security and privacy questions that need to be worked out first, said Gloria Bergquist, vice president of the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers.

The technology "may well play a larger role in future road safety, but many pieces of a large puzzle still need to fit together," she said.

The technology the government is contemplating contains several layers of security and privacy protection to ensure the information exchanged between vehicles doesn't identify them but merely contains basic safety data, officials said.

The safety benefits can't be achieved until there is a critical mass of cars and trucks on the road using the technology. It takes many years to turn over the nation's entire vehicle fleet, but the technology could start preventing accidents

before that.

Safety benefits can be seen with as few as 7 percent to 10 percent of vehicles in a given area similarly equipped, said Paul Feenstra, a spokesman for the transportation society, an umbrella organization for the research and development of new transportation technologies.

There may be another way to speed things up, according to a presentation last year by the communications technology company Qualcomm. About 45 percent of Americans use smartphones, and that share is growing. If smartphones, which already have GPS, came equipped with a radio chip they could be used to retrofit vehicles already on the road so they could talk to each other. That would help make it possible to achieve a 50 percent market penetration in less than

five years, Qualcomm estimated.

Using cellphones could also extend the safety benefits of connected-car technology to pedestrians, bicyclists and motorcyclists, Belcher said.

A driver could be alerted to a possible collision with a pedestrian carrying a smartphone sending out information, even if it was too dark to see the person. More than 4,700 pedestrians were killed by vehicles and 76,000 injured in 2012. But there are significant technical and standardization hurdles to using cellphones to support connected-car technology. Cellphone battery life, for example, a need for antennas, questions about radio frequencies and concern that cellphone GPS functions might not be as precise as those in a vehicle manufactured with special technology. □

After tough January, US stocks extend slide

ALEX VEIGA
AP Business Writer

For investors, February is starting out just as rough as January. U.S. stocks tumbled on Monday, pushing the Dow Jones industrial average down more than 320 points after reports of sluggish U.S. growth added to investor worries about the global economy. The slump follows the Dow's worst January performance since 2009.

The market stumbled from the get-go, with U.S. markets opening lower after declines in European and Japanese indexes. Then it quickly turned into a slide as a spate of discouraging economic data on everything from manufacturing to auto sales to construction spending poured in. By late afternoon, the sell-off accelerated further, bringing the Dow down more than 7 percent for the year. The S&P 500 index was down more than 5 percent on the year.

Some stock watchers took the market's decline in stride. They considered it a necessary recalibration following the market's record highs at the end of last year.

"It's a bit painful for investors to see the equities markets drop as they have, but this is healthy for this market," said Chris Gaffney, a

senior market strategist at EverBank. "We've been almost 2-1/2 years without a 10 percent correction. So we're still in that healthy correction, if you will."

All told, the Dow tumbled 326.05 points, or 2.1 per-

cent. There were signs of worry throughout the market. The VIX index, a measure of stock market volatility, rose to its highest level since December 2012. Investors shifted into U.S. government bonds, pushing yields

the day. Cold U.S. weather emerged as common problem for the economy last month. Investors were discouraged Monday by a private survey showing U.S. manufacturing barely expanded



Trader Robert Hannan works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Friday, Jan. 31, 2014. Stocks fell sharply in early trading Friday, as investors fretted over disappointing earnings from companies like Amazon.com and more trouble in overseas markets.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

cent, to 15,372.80. It fell as much as 342 points earlier in the afternoon. The Standard & Poor's 500 index lost 40.70 points, or 2.3 percent, to 1,741.89. The Nasdaq composite dropped 106.92 points, or 2.6 percent, to 3,996.96.

lower and continuing their sharp decline since the start of the year.

Staffing company Robert Half International fell the most among stocks in the S&P 500 index. CarMax and Pfizer were among the few stocks to eke out gains on

last month as frigid temperatures delayed shipments of raw materials and caused some factories to shut down. Construction spending rose modestly in December, slowing from healthy gains a month earlier. □

Construction spending up in December by 0.1 percent

PAUL WISEMAN
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. construction spending rose modestly in December, slowing from healthy gains a month earlier.

The Commerce Department said Monday that construction spending increased a scant 0.1 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$930.5 billion, down from a revised 0.8 percent increase in November.

The December increase was driven by a 2.6 percent rise in private residential construction, which hit an annual pace of \$352.6 billion, highest since June 2008. Spending on single-family homes rose 3.4 percent in December and 21.6 percent from a year earlier.

More than two-thirds of the residential construction market comes from single-family homes.

Each new home creates an average of three jobs for a year and generates about \$90,000 in tax revenue, according to National Association of Home Builders.

Construction of apartments and condominiums was up 0.5 percent in December and up 27.3 percent from December 2012. Rising home prices have encouraged more people to rent instead of buy, encouraging developers to build more apartments. After recovering from the depths of the Great Recession, home sales have stalled recently, pinched by higher prices and higher mortgage rates.

The National Association of Realtors last week said its seasonally adjusted pending home sales index dropped 8.7 percent last month to 92.4.

That's the seventh straight monthly decline for the index, which previews upcoming sales.

A one- to two-month lag usually exists between a signed contract and a completed sale. □

Post buying PowerBar, Musashi brands from Nestle

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Post Holdings Inc. is buying the PowerBar and Musashi brands from Nestle SA, further diversifying its business by expanding into the active nutrition category.

Financial terms were not immediately disclosed.

The PowerBar and Musashi brands make premium bars, powders and gels. Musashi is a leading sports nutrition brand in Australia. The transaction also includes other related worldwide assets.

Post, based in St. Louis, makes cereals such as Grape-Nuts, Great Grains and Honeycomb. In January it completed its \$370 million acquisition of Da-

kota Growers Pasta Company Inc.

Post said Monday that it expects to combine the PowerBar and Musashi brands with its current active nutrition portfolio to create an active nutrition group with anticipated annual revenue of nearly \$550 million. The PowerBar and Musashi brands will join with Post-owned Premier Nutrition's Premier Protein and Joint Juice brands and Dymatize Enterprises LLC's Dymatize and Supreme brands. Dymatize makes premium protein powders, bars and nutritional supplements.

Post also announced Monday that it closed on the acquisitions of Golden Boy

Foods Ltd., a maker of private label peanut and other nut butters and dried fruits and snacking nuts, and Dymatize Enterprises. Post announced the deals in December. It bought privately held Golden Boy from affiliates of Tricor Pacific Capital Inc. and other shareholders for \$320 million Canadian (\$300.2 million U.S.).

Post bought privately held Dymatize from affiliates of TA Associates and other owners for \$380 million. It also said in December that there could be an additional payment of up to \$17.5 million if Dymatize hits certain profit targets next year.

David Ritterbush, president and CEO of Premier Nutrition, and Greg Venner, president and CEO of Dymatize, will serve as co-CEOs of Post's active nutrition group. Ritterbush and Venner will report to Post President and Chief Operating Officer Terence E. Block.

The deal is expected to close in Post's fiscal third quarter. The company said Monday that it plans to fund the transaction with available cash.

Post's stock gained 69 cents, or 1.3 percent, to \$54.24 in morning trading on Monday. Its shares have risen more than 43 percent since a year ago. □

HP revises autonomy financial reports, citing accounting errors

© 2014 New York Times

Hewlett-Packard disclosed on Monday that it had found what it said were serious accounting errors at Autonomy, the British software maker it acquired in 2011, leading to a number of major revisions in the acquired company's previous financial reports.

Among the changes in the restatements were a 54 percent cut in the 2010 revenue of one major Autonomy subsidiary and an

81 percent cut in its operating profit for that year. The disclosures, made in mandatory filings with the British government on Friday, are the latest development in a bitter dispute between HP and Autonomy's founder and former chief executive, Mike Lynch. Late in 2012, HP took an \$8.8 billion accounting charge tied to its takeover of the British company, adding that "serious accounting improprieties" represented about \$5 bil-

lion of that write-down.

The U.S. technology company has contended that Autonomy improperly booked hardware sales as higher-margin software sales in some instances and booked licensing revenue up front before receiving money, inflating gross profit margins. HP has said that it has provided its findings to the Justice Department, the Securities and Exchange Commission and Britain's Serious Fraud Of-

fice. "The substantial work necessary to prepare these accounts has revealed extensive accounting errors and misrepresentations in the previously issued 2010 audited financial statements, including the problems previously identified by HP," Michael Thacker, an HP spokesman, wrote in an emailed statement.

In its filings, HP warned that other accounting errors may yet emerge.

Lynch has denied HP's

charges and demanded that the U.S. technology giant provide evidence to back up its claims. A spokesman for the former senior management of Autonomy said on Monday, "We continue to reject these allegations by HP. Given the size of HP's write-down, we are very surprised by the small size of the adjustments in Autonomy Systems Limited that are attributed to the ongoing accounting dispute." □

Emerging markets' turmoil likely to stay contained



In this Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2014 photo, people walk near an electric board showing currency rates at a money exchange brokerage in Istanbul, Turkey. Turkey's central bank has sharply raised its key interest rate to 12% from 7.75% to try to stave off inflation and support the national currency, which has fallen sharply in recent weeks.

(AP Photo/Emrah Gurel)

PAUL WISEMAN

STEVE ROTHWELL

AP Business Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — From Turkey to South Africa to Argentina, emerging markets are being slammed by rising inflation, economic mismanagement and political turmoil.

Overhanging it all is a nerve-jangling unknown: Whether developing countries as a group can withstand the end of the extraordinary easy-money policies that central banks have offered up for five years.

The short answer: A tentative yes.

Many economists say they're optimistic that the troubles in emerging markets won't infect the glob-

al economy as a whole. They note that the biggest threats in the developing world are confined to modest-size economies — South Africa, Turkey, Argentina — that seem unlikely to do much damage beyond their borders.

For one thing, emerging economies as a group are far healthier than they were the last time they were severely tested — during the Asian financial crisis of the late 1990s.

Many have built up foreign currency reserves they can use to buy their own currency and prop up its value. When the Asian financial crisis hit in 1997, emerging markets' foreign reserves were equal to 9.9 of their economic output.

Many couldn't defend their currencies. By last year, the percentage had risen to nearly 30 percent, according to the Institute of International Finance.

And the world's richest economies — the United States and Europe — appear to be strengthening. As they do, they'll be more likely to buy goods from developing countries, thereby cushioning the damage.

"Some emerging markets have been hit particularly hard," economists at BNP Paribas wrote in a report last week. "However, it has only been some, so this is not a widespread emerging-market crisis."

The International Monetary Fund expects the global

economy to grow 3.7 percent this year, up from 3 percent in 2013. The IMF forecasts that developing economies as a whole will also grow faster in 2014 — 5.1 percent, up from 4.7 percent in 2013.

Still, the turmoil in emerging markets this year has shaken global investors. So far this year, Argentina's peso has dropped 19 percent, South Africa's rand 7 percent and Turkey's lira 6 percent. In response, the Argentine, Turkish and South African central banks have raised interest rates to try to curb inflation and support their free-falling currencies. The resulting turbulence has rattled investors in the United States, too: Since peaking Dec. 31, the Dow Jones industrial average has tumbled 7 percent.

So why have emerging market troubles spooked in-

vestors in the United States and Europe? In short, fear of the unknown.

After going to extraordinary lengths to pump money into the financial system after a crisis hit in 2008, the Federal Reserve is scaling back. The Fed's bond buying had pushed long-term U.S. rates down and sent investors into emerging markets in search of higher returns. Now that U.S. rates may be poised to rise, the money is flowing back out, pressuring developing countries' currencies and financial markets.

"Central banks have provided unprecedented liquidity to the markets," says Craig Alexander, chief economist with TD Bank Financial Group in Toronto. "What happens when that liquidity starts to get withdrawn? The actual answer is, we don't know." □

FOR SALE



Kunuku Abou 107

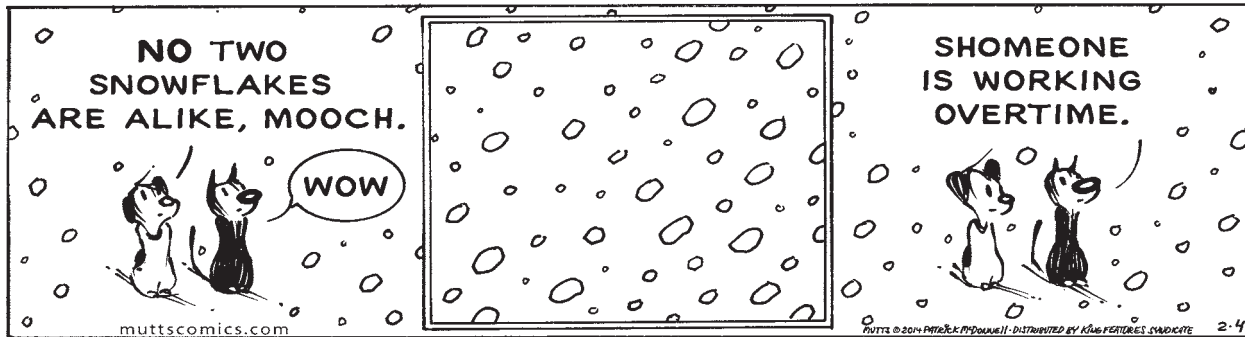
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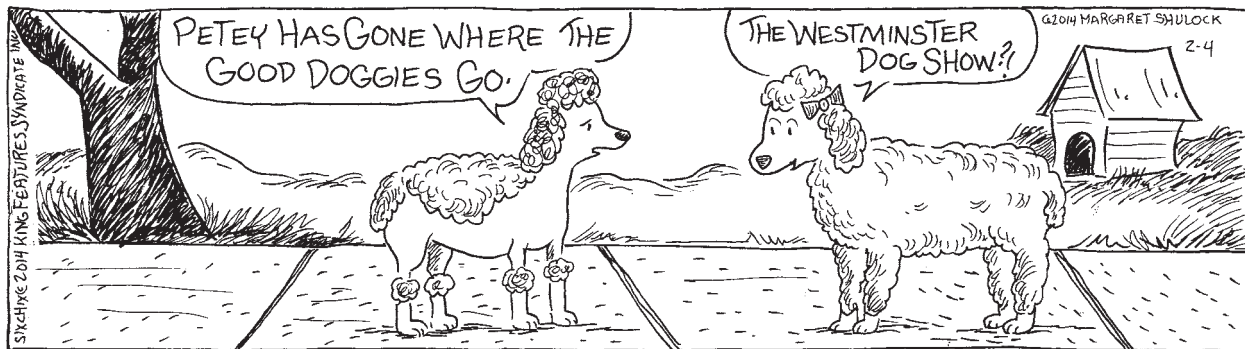
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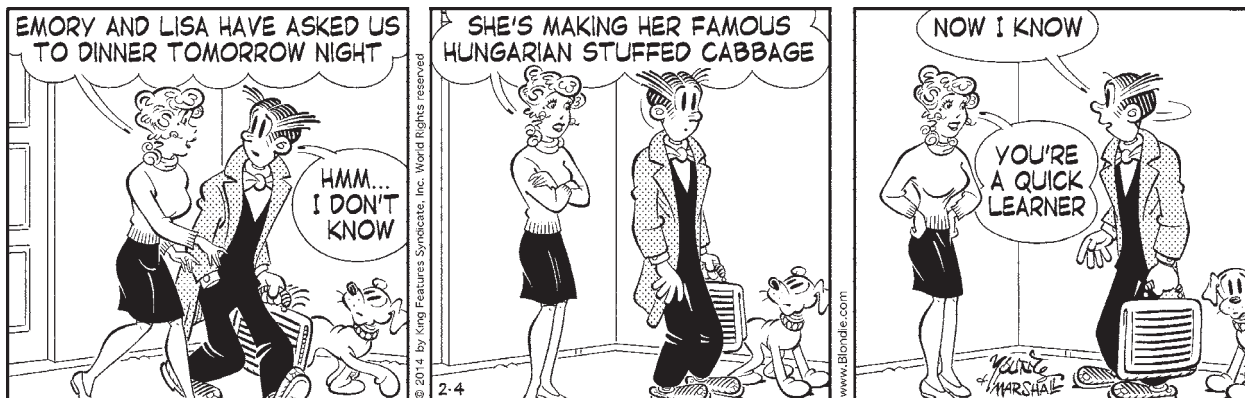
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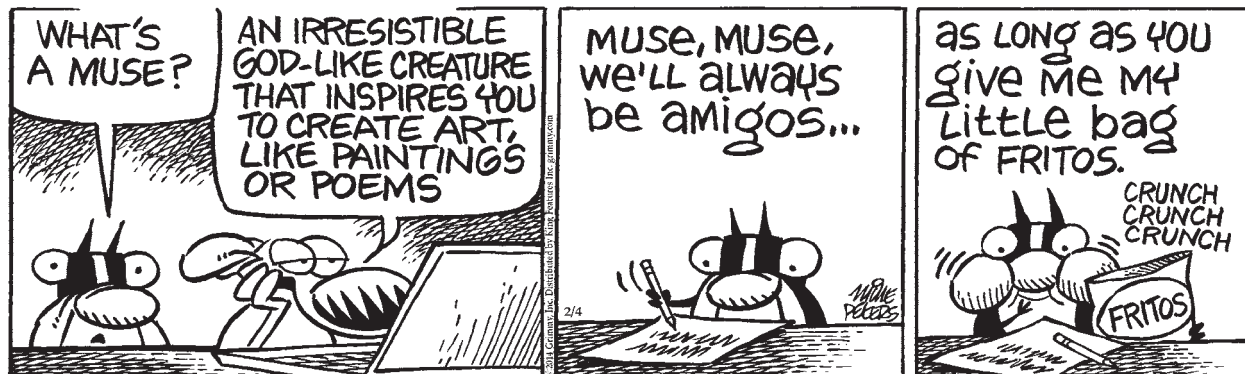
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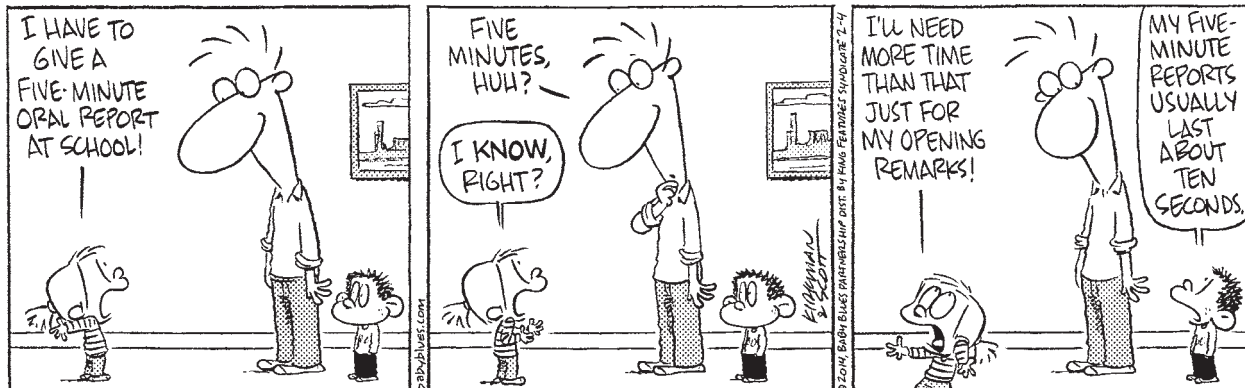
Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

1	6			3			8	
						4		2
	2		5	4			7	3
					5		6	
				1				
7		9						
8	5			6	2		4	
2		1						
	9			8			2	7

Difficulty Level ★★

2/04

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

1	5	9	7	2	6	8	4	3
4	3	2	5	9	8	6	7	1
8	6	7	4	1	3	2	9	5
5	7	1	8	4	2	9	3	6
2	9	3	6	7	5	4	1	8
6	8	4	1	3	9	7	5	2
7	4	5	2	6	1	3	8	9
9	2	8	3	5	7	1	6	4
3	1	6	9	8	4	5	2	7

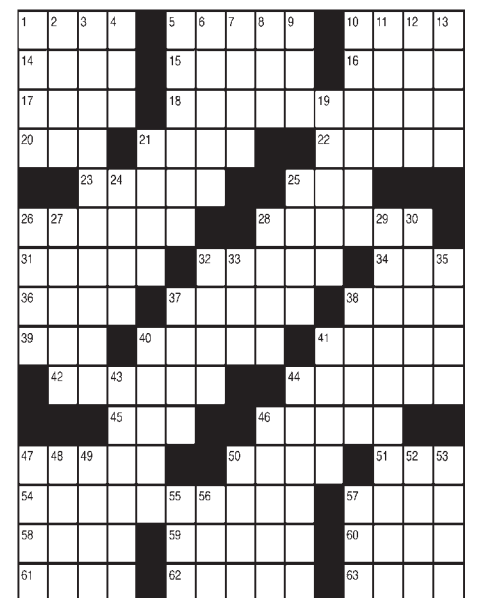
ACROSS

- Strong urges
- Actress Burke
- Expense
- All ... everywhere
- Stay away from
- Exclusively
- Acquires
- Ice cream option
- Mr. Linkletter
- Discover
- Wed on the run
- Attracts; draws
- Half and half
- Truck fuel
- Depress
- Beginning
- Limits one's calories
- Doggy doc
- One reason to take a shower
- Sacred scroll
- Tender loving ... TLC
- Curved edge
- Back tooth
- Loses hair
- Antenna
- Hearty
- As ... as the hills
- Light wood used for rafts
- Sum
- Tie up
- Cheap metal
- Modest
- Blaze
- Suspenders alternative
- Bart's mom
- Cowboy's shoe
- Invites
- Puff ...; deadly snake
- Hampton and Holiday

- Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 2/4/14
- 5 Actor ... Day-Lewis
- 6 Makes smooth
- 7 Burden
- 8 Helpful hint
- 9 Turmoil
- 10 Formed a spiral
- 11 Aware of the duplicity of
- 12 Strike with the open palm
- 13 Actress Daly
- 19 Loans
- 21 Worry
- 24 Drug addict
- 25 Sworn promise
- 26 Portal; entry
- 27 New Delhi, ...
- 28 Scorch
- 29 Assessment
- 30 Bookish fellows
- 32 Betsy Wetsy or Barbie
- 33 Tax-deferred retirement acct.
- 35 SAT, for one
- 37 Warty amphibian
- 38 Taxis

DOWN

- Meditative exercise
- "Did you ... see a lassie..."
- Irritating
- Last year's jrs.



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

2/4/14

Monday's Puzzle Solved

HELPS	SPUR	MARE
OPERA	PORE	ODOR
PIVOT	RUNG	LOBE
SCIMITAR	ARABIC	
PRAY	PRESENT	
HOSTEL	SODAS	
ONE SEATS	DEALT	
PEAR	SHIER	SLUR
ISLET	ELDER	PRO
VIRAL	BISSET	
ALTERED	LUTE	
REARED	SITUATED	
DAME	DATA	ASIDE
OVEN	EVER	LODGE
REST	NEWS	SNEER

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2/4/14

- Pepper grinders
- Courageous
- Cuts of beef
- Forest officer
- Pig out
- Large brass instrument
- Singles
- Discussion
- Wren or lark
- Common metal dividers
- Ms. Thurman
- Angry
- J. Edgar Hoover's agcy.

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Flooded British villages ignite climate debate

JILL LAWLESS

Associated Press

THORNEY, England (AP)

— As children climb into boats to get to school and scores of hoses pump floodwaters from fields day and night, one corner of southwest England is trying to reclaim its land. Other Britons watch and wonder: How much can you fight the sea?

Here on the Somerset Levels — a marshy, low-lying region dotted with farmland and villages and crisscrossed by rivers — thousands of acres have been under water for weeks.

Some villages have been cut off for a month, leaving residents who have been forced to make long detours or take boats to school, work or grocery shops frustrated and angry. Some blame government budget cuts and inept environmental bureaucracy. Others point to climate change. Some wonder if flood defenses for major cities like nearby Bristol or London will take precedence over protecting their rural hamlets.

"I'm used to seeing floods on the Levels, but this is just something else," said 28-year-old Kris Davies, who was dragging sodden carpet from his cottage in the village of Thorney. He, his wife and two daughters have just returned after a month staying with family in a nearby town.

He said when the area flooded less severely last winter "we were told it was a one-in-100-year occurrence."

"The following year it happens again — only worse!" he said.

The disaster has put the Levels at the center of a debate about the effects



In this photo taken Sunday Feb. 2, 2014, an emergency support worker wades through floodwater in Thorney in Somerset, England.

Associated Press

of climate change and the cost of preserving an agricultural landscape created over the centuries since medieval monks began draining the wetlands around nearby Glastonbury Abbey.

Meteorologists say Britain's future will involve more extreme weather.

Rainstorms have battered Britain since December and this January was the wettest in more than a century in southern England. The region was due to be hit by more rain and gale-force winds starting Monday.

Floods have already inundated an area covering some 25 square miles (16,000 acres or 65 square kilometers). The River Parrett and other waterways have burst their banks and fields that normally sustain crops, dairy herds and beef cattle are under several feet (more than 1 meter) of water.

Many roads are impassible and the village of Muchelney is now an island reached only by boats run

by firefighters.

On one road, the top of a car peeks out above the water.

Davies' home in Thorney, a hamlet of sandstone-colored buildings and thatched cottages, is normally a few minutes' drive from Muchelney. It now takes 45 minutes to get there unless you take a boat.

"Having to kayak to your front door is a bit of a novelty," Davies said. "The kids loved it for a couple of days but the novelty has

worn off."

No one in Somerset thinks floods can be avoided. Much of this land is below sea level, and it's as marshy and porous as a sponge. But many locals blame this year's devastation on the Environment Agency's decision, in the 1990s, to abandon a policy of routinely dredging local rivers, which are now clogged with silt and running at between a third and two-thirds of capacity.

They say this disaster has been building for years.

"A really carefully constructed landscape which works quite well, which has worked for 800 years, has suddenly been left untended," said Andrew Lee, founder of a "Stop the Floods" advocacy group. "There are fields I can see from my house that were underwater for 11 months between 2012 and 2013," he said. The anger around here is that it has taken another major disaster for it to get any attention at all."

Some say spending cuts by Britain's Conservative-led government have made things worse.

The Environment Agency says budget cuts have not weakened its flood protection efforts. But agency chief Chris Smith, in an article for Monday's Daily Telegraph, conceded that the relentless demand on resources means "difficult decisions" about what to save: "Town or country, front rooms or farmland?" The government also argues that dredging alone is not the solution. It speeds up rivers and can cause flooding downstream and it disturbs the habitats of fish, otters and water voles, an endangered rodent. □

Volcano's ash affects a third of Ecuador provinces

GONZALO SOLANO

Associated Press

QUITO, Ecuador (AP) — A cloud of ash that climbed more than 2.5-mile-high (4-kilometer) from Tungurahua volcano on Monday has affected a third of Ecuador's provinces and forced the suspension of classes at some schools after temporarily closing a regional airport.

A series of 10 powerful cannon-like blasts shook the 16,480-foot (5,023-meter) volcano overnight and could be heard for miles. Tungurahua is nearly 90 miles (140 kilometers) south of Quito.

Fernanda Naranjo of Ecuador's geophysics insti-

tute said there have been no pyroclastic flow — fast-moving, super-hot fluidized masses of rock fragments and gases— since Saturday. One such flow halted less than a mile from a highway, according to a bulletin posted on the institute's website. But none has reached villages, where residents have been evacuating their homes during the nighttime, then returning during the day. The volcano resumed erupting late last week after being quiet since October.

In Monday's bulletin, the institute said it is likely that Tungurahua will continue to experience explosions and produce small

and moderate pyroclastic flows. It also said continued adverse health effects and more disruptions of air travel were possible.

On Sunday, ash from Tungurahua forced the closure for several hours Sunday of the Mariscal Lamar airport in Cuenca, Ecuador's third-largest city.

The government called for voluntary evacuations of hundreds of people living near Tungurahua, officials distributed masks to protect them against the inhalation of ash.

Tungurahua has been erupting sporadically since 1999. In 2006, a pyroclastic cloud killed four people and left two missing. □

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'Lego Movie' built to be a better toy film

JAKE COYLE

AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Toy movies occupy a spot on the respectability meter somewhere between talking dog films and "Showgirls." Even in a business not always known for the most honorable of ambitions, films based on toy lines smack of a crass grab at cross-merchandizing.

Since the popularity of the "Transformers" franchise, Hollywood has increasingly turned to Hasbro toys like G.I. Joe and Battleship to capitalize on their familiar brands.

Chris Miller and Phil Lord, co-writers and co-directors of "The Lego Movie," were well aware of the dim reputation of toy movies. But in their short but rapidly ascending careers, the comic duo has turned weak premises like a "21 Jump Street" remake and an adaptation of "Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs" into surprisingly fresh, crowd-pleasing hits. "One day we want to work on a movie that sounds like a good idea from the start," jokes Miller. "Our success has been based on low expectations."

"The Lego Movie," opening Friday, is far more inventive and satirical than you might expect. Made with a conscious resistance to the pitfall of toy-based movies, it's imbued with a childlike playfulness and a subversive mockery of corporate control.

"We actually really enjoy a challenge and get excited by solving a seemingly impossible puzzle," Miller says. "Each one of those movies — 'Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs,' '21 Jump Street' and 'The Lego Movie' — we were like, 'That sounds terrible. It's probably going to be terrible, unless ... unless, there is one way you could do it.'"

"That's basically our entire career," says Lord.

The concept that Lord, 36, and Miller, 38, came up with was to capture the experience of playing in a deep box of the interlocking plastic bricks. In a world composed of Legos, following the rules, or the instruc-



This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows the character Bad Cop/Good Cop, voiced by Liam Neeson, left, and President Business, voiced by Will Ferrell, in a scene from "The Lego Movie."

Associated Press

tions, is a way of life. Workers happily sing the anthem "Everything Is Awesome," and are pacified by bland state-controlled entertainment, like the TV show "Where Are My Pants?"

A law-abiding construction worker named Emmet (voiced by Chris Pratt) inadvertently stumbles across a rebellion against leader Lord Business (Will Ferrell), revealing a ragtag of mismatched characters, from Batman (Will Arnett) to Abraham Lincoln (Will Forte). A battle ensues between lock-step uniformity and creative chaos.

Saying just how much the movie mimics the experience of a child playing with Legos would spoil it. The Los Angeles Times called the film "the first-ever postmodern toy movie."

"It was as open and infinite as looking at a bucket of bricks itself," Miller said in a recent joint interview with Lord while the two stepped away from editing their upcoming sequel "22 Jump Street." "Our thinking was: What if this movie is told by an 8-year-old? We really wanted it to feel like it had the whimsy and randomness of being from the mind of a child."

The Denmark-based Lego Group was approached by Warner Bros. producers in 2007 about making a movie, with an earlier story outline by Dan and Kevin Hageman. The company has in recent years expanded beyond toy sets to build numerous international theme parks, release several lines of video games with

Warner Bros. Interactive Entertainment and air the Cartoon Network TV series "Ninjago" (for which there are movie plans, too).

"The last thing that we wanted to do was be per-

ceived as 'Oh, this is just Lego trying to make more money, just to sell more toys,'" says Matthew Ashton, vice president of creative design for Lego and a producer on the film. "If you

look at Lego as a creative medium, it's very much like modeling clay is in a 'Wallace & Gromit' movie. It's just a different way of expressing a story."

Ashton says filmmakers were given wide creative leeway and no featured toys were dictated by Lego: "Then we went through the script and cherry picked what we thought could make good toys and co-developed those things together."

Miller and Lord met as freshman at Dartmouth College, drawn together by their similar sense of humor. They both had comic strips in the school paper and churned out student videos (a sample: Lord's "Man Bites Breakfast" was told from the perspective of cereal). □

The night does not last forever;

it fades with the dawning of the day. The red roses we leave you do not last forever; they wither with the cold of the winter. The memory of you, however, will live on forever in our hearts and our souls because love and memories never fade away. You will live in our hearts; your voice, your smile and your love have been forever imprinted in all who knew you.

We love and miss you so

In memory of Irene June (Schofield) Taxson



"Love from, Martin, Bret and Zahra"

Leno: 2nd 'Tonight exit' is quits for late-night

LYNN ELBER

AP Television Writer

BURBANK, Calif. (AP) —

Jay Leno, as affably efficient backstage as he is in front of the camera, avoids waxing poetic about his 22-year "Tonight Show" run that draws to a close Thursday.

Instead, he relies on numbers to tell the story. Leno's tenure is second only to Johnny Carson's 30 years; "Tonight" was No. 1 among viewers when he took it over and will be when he hands it off to Jimmy Fallon; he'll have taped more shows than any predecessor, Carson included, with the final and 4,610th one.

His dry assessment also may stem from a case of déjà vu. After all, he lived through this before when he surrendered "Tonight" in 2009 to Conan O'Brien, only to reclaim it after NBC's messy bobbling of the transition and O'Brien's lackluster ratings.

But this time it's different, Leno contends, offering another hard fact: The older generation has to make way for the younger one.

Britain's Queen Elizabeth II can keep 65-year-old Prince Charles cooling his heels. Leno doesn't have the power to do the same with Fallon, 39. The "Late Night" host is moving the show from its longtime Burbank home, near Johnny Carson Park and off Bob Hope Drive, to its New York birthplace when he debuts as host on Feb. 17. "It's been a wonderful job but this is the right time to leave," said Leno, whose once-dark mop of hair is now a neatly groomed silver. "I'm at that age where I don't really listen to the (current) music anymore. I'm not a big tweet guy. A 63-year-old guy reading Miley Cyrus' tweets is a little creepy. Move on."

He makes the argument with the precision of one of his reliable monologue jokes, just as he did when he claimed to understand NBC's decision to evict



In this Aug. 6, 2013 file photo, President Barack Obama, left, talks with Jay Leno during a commercial break during the taping of his appearance on "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno" in Los Angeles. Leno will step down as "Tonight Show" host in February 2014. Associated Press

him for O'Brien — even as he reamed the network on the air.

The years between then and now have seen changes come at a quickening pace, with an ever-more crowded late-night arena and a shifting media environment. Fallon's parody music bits with contemporaries like Justin Timberlake are perfect cut-and-pastes for sites like YouTube that drive young viewer attention and offer new potential for ad sales as network revenues shrink.

In 2012, "Tonight" laid off 20 staffers and Leno took a 10 percent pay cut. The show has averaged a 3.5 million nightly viewership in the past 12 months, which pales in comparison with the double-digit audiences it once claimed. Leno is planning to expand the comedy club gigs he never abandoned and various outlets for his automotive passion, including the Web show "Jay Leno's Garage," and the magazine and newspaper pieces he writes. He insists his schedule won't include another late-night show, which could only be what he calls "Tonight Light." "It's hard to re-create this moment. It's like the fighter coming back. You got

to be world champion, so it's kind of silly," he said.

"Tonight," which launched in 1954, was shaped by original host Steve Allen and nurtured by successors Jack Paar and Carson. Following them represented the pinnacle for comedians, and it was the role Leno coveted and won upon Carson's 1992 retirement.

His first few months were marred by Leno's long-time manager Helen Kushnick, who, as his first "Tonight" executive producer, was blamed for instigating nasty guest booking wars and fired in what then was characterized as one of TV's biggest publicity nightmares.

Worse was to come, when NBC's "Tonight" host succession plan hatched in 2004 went awry. Leno, who stoically endured insults from Jimmy Kimmel and others who portrayed him as having stolen O'Brien's job, says the past is past. CBS' Letterman, who once jockeyed with Leno for Carson's throne, echoed that.

"How long can I carry this with me?" he told Howard Stern during a SiriusXM interview Friday. He spoke of calling Leno when his second "Tonight" departure was announced, their

first conversation in several years, and tipped his hat to his rival when Stern asked if Leno sounded sad.

"I wouldn't say sad. There's nothing to be sad about. He's had a tremendous career there," Letterman said, graciously. Others have chimed in. "Politically Incorrect" host Bill Maher, a regular "Tonight" guest, and Seth MacFarlane ("Family Guy," "Ted") serenaded Leno last week to the tune of "Thanks for the Memories."

It was reminiscent of Bette Midler's saucy "You Made Me Watch You" tribute to Carson. This parody was edgier.

"You've been retired and twice been fired for being No. 1. How stupid they are," the pair sang, zinging NBC as a surprised, bemused Leno watched. Maher was expansive when asked to comment on Leno.

"As a performer trying to make it in show business, and as a human being, you cannot do better than ask, 'What would Jay do?'" Maher said in an email Saturday.

Leno's final show will feature Billy Crystal, his first "Tonight" guest, and Garth Brooks. Leno's legacy —

a word that makes him squirm — might include expanding the show's opening monologue; a memorable mea culpa from Hugh Grant after he was arrested in 1995 with a prostitute; the first interview with a sitting president, Barack Obama, in 2009; and the "Jaywalking" fixture, which trips up people with simple questions.

Leno's favorite Q&A is that those queried about how Mount Rushmore was formed often reply, "erosion." His head-shaking reaction: "The wind and rain not only picked four presidents, it picked four of our greatest presidents!" Was he the most daring, most innovative, most surprising force in late-night? His critics and even clear-eyed admirers said no, and Leno doesn't argue with them — but that's not what counts, he adds: "Whether you like the host or not, you cannot say it's not been a success. A football team might not have the most sophisticated players but can win the Super Bowl."

Leno cannot be called unsophisticated but he is determinedly un-show biz. He makes note of his modest New England upbringing, the high school friends he remains close to, his three-decade marriage to wife, Mavis, and the many "Tonight" staffers who remained loyal throughout his tenure.

Hollywood has been a place to get to tell jokes to a big audience, reap millions of dollars to be carefully saved and keep a safe distance from the circus.

"When this is over, I don't get to my table at (posh restaurant) Morton's and" — here, he feigns dismay as he mimics a maître d' — "Sorry, Mr. Leno, this is Mr. Fallon's table."

Instead, the day after Leno steps off the "Tonight" stage, the one designed for him, he will travel to Florida for a handful of club dates, his wife at his side. And, he said, he'll be content with that. □

The Great Pre-K Debate



NICHOLAS KRISTOF
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Against all odds, prekindergarten is gaining ground. President Barack Obama called again in his State of the Union address for Congress to support high-quality preschool for all, noting that 30 states are already moving ahead on this front (including New York).

"Research shows that one of the best investments we can make in a child's life is high-quality early education," Obama said. The House speaker, John Boehner, who sat stonily through most of Obama's speech, applauded that line. Congress also unexpectedly increased financing this year for early education.

Aside from apple pie, preschool may also be the only issue on which voters agree. A poll last year found that 60 percent of Republicans and 84 percent of Democrats support expansion of prekindergarten. Republican-led states like Oklahoma have been leaders in early education for a simple reason: It works.

Yet one obstacle is the misperception that early education has been debunked by researchers - when, in fact, it's the opposite. With so many programs and billions of dollars at stake, let's carefully review the evidence.

Advocates focus on the stunning success of two tiny programs in the 1960s and 1970s, Perry Preschool and Abecedarian. Children from low-income families who participated in them were more likely to graduate from high school and get a job and less likely to end up on welfare.

Yet critics correctly note that programs often work when small but don't scale up. It's an open question whether those two programs would have an impact as great today if they were rolled out nationwide.

Republican critics focus on (and misunderstand) a major, well-designed project called the Head Start Impact Study. It found that Head Start produces educational gains that fade away. By third grade, when the research ended, there was little detectable difference between those assigned to Head Start and those in control groups.

That's disappointing. And that's why critics denounce Head Start as a waste of money.

Yet early education has always had an impact not through cognitive gains but through long-term improvements in life outcomes. With Perry, Abecedarian and other programs, edu-

cational gains fade, yet, mysteriously, there are often long-term improvements on things that matter even more, such as arrest rates and high school graduation rates. The Head Start Impact Study couldn't examine those outcomes.

Other researchers have, and their findings are almost unanimous. One rigorous study led by Eliana Garces, then of UCLA, found that Head Start graduates were more likely to graduate from high school and attend college than their peers. David Deming of Harvard found that children who attended Head Start were more likely to graduate from high school and less likely as young adults to be "idle" - out of a job and out of school. Jens Ludwig of University of Chicago found that Head Start reduced child mortality in elementary years, apparently because of screening and treatment referrals.

Beyond Head Start, a series of randomized trials of other early education initiatives repeatedly found the same result: Long-term outcomes improve.

When experts weigh these benefits against short-term costs, preschool for at-risk kids from low-income families more than pays for itself. (It's not as clear that this is as true for middle-class kids.) When we have kids growing up in poverty and homes without books, we end up paying one way or the other. We can invest in preschool today (about \$8,000 per child per year), or in juvenile detention tomorrow (around \$90,000 per child per year).

So where does this prekindergarten "sleeping effect" come from? Nobody is quite sure. Maybe children learn self-discipline, patience or grit.

Or maybe parents do. Alexander Gelber of the University of California, Berkeley, found that parents of children in Head Start are significantly more likely to read to them, and spend more time reading to them - even years later. Parents are more likely to take them to museums. Dads living apart spend an extra day a month with them.

The United States is an outlier in early education. We rank 28th out of 38 industrialized countries in the share of 4-year-olds in preschool. In Shanghai, with one of the top-performing school systems in the world, nearly all preschoolers participated in early education programs.

Of course, what we need in America isn't "pre-K" narrowly but broad investment in young children, and that's what Obama proposes. Programs like Nurse-Family Partnership or Reach Out and Read that coach low-income parents on reading to their kids and other parenting skills seem to have a particularly powerful long-term impact.

One of the most consequential national debates this year will be about early education. The evidence that it builds opportunity is overwhelming. So the next time you hear people scoff that it's a failure, push back - and school them.



ASSAD STAYS

The Opportunity Coalition



DAVID BROOKS
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President Barack Obama can spend the remainder of his term planting a few more high-tech hubs, working on reforming the patent law and doing the other modest things he mentioned in his State of the Union address. And if he did that, he might do some marginal good, and he would manage the stately decline of his presidency during its final few years.

Or, alternately, he can realize that he is now at a moment of liberation. For the past five years he has been inhibited by the need to please donors, to cater to various congressional constituencies and to play by Washington rules. But the legislating phase of his presidency is now pretty much over. During the next few years he will be free to think beyond legislation, beyond fundraising, beyond the necessities of the day-to-day partisanship. He will have the platform and power of the presidency, but, especially after the midterms, fewer short-term political obligations.

This means he will have the opportunity to build what he himself could have used during the past few years: an Opportunity Coalition. He'll have the chance to organize bipartisan groups of mayors, business leaders, legislators, activists and donors into permanent alliances and institutions that will formulate, lobby for, fund and promote opportunity

and social mobility agendas for decades to come.

There are already signs that Obama is stepping back to take the long view. In his interviews with David Remnick of The New Yorker, he observed that the president is "essentially a relay swimmer in a river full of rapids." You are trying to do your leg and pass things along to the next swimmer.

As president, he's been made aware of how little a president can accomplish unless there is organized support from the outside. Obama now has the chance to build that support for future presidents, on the issues that concern him most.

He might start, for example, by scrambling the current political categories. We now have one liberal tradition that believes in using government to enhance equality.

We have another conservative tradition that believes in limiting government to enhance freedom. These two traditions have fought to a standstill and prevented Obama from passing much domestic legislation of late.

But there is a third ancient tradition that weaves through U.S. history, geared directly at enhancing opportunity and social mobility. This is the Whig tradition, which begins with people like Henry Clay, Daniel Webster and Abraham Lincoln. This tradition believes in using the power of government to give marginalized Americans the tools to compete in a capitalist economy.

The Whigs fought against the divisive populist Jacksonians. They argued that it is better to help people move between classes than to pit classes against each other. They also transcended our current political divisions.

The Whigs were interventionist in economics while they were traditionalist and family-oriented in their moral and social attitudes. They believed that America should step boldly into the industrial age, even as they championed cultural order.

The Whigs championed large infrastructure projects and signifi-

cant public investments, even as they believed in sacred property rights. They believed in expanding immigration along with assimilation and cohesion.

Obama could travel the country modernizing the Whig impulse, questioning current divisions and eroding the rigid battle lines. More concretely, he could create a group of Simpson-Bowles-type commissions - with legislators, mayors, governors and others brought together to offer concrete proposals on mobility issues from the beginning to the end of the life span:

Is there a way to improve family patterns so disadvantaged young children grow up in more ordered environments? Is there a way to improve Head Start and intelligently expand early childhood education? Is there a way to structure neighborhoods so that teenagers are more likely to thrive? Is there a way to get young men wage subsidies so they are worth marrying? Is there a way to train or provide jobs for unemployed middle-aged workers?

These commissions could issue their reports in the spring of 2016, to make life maximally difficult for the next presidential candidates. Obama could also credential a different style of public sector leader.

If you are trying to pass legislation, you staff your administration with political operatives. But if you are trying to change the discussion and mobilize the country, you hire and promote social entrepreneurs, people from Ashoka, Teach for America, Opportunity International, the International Justice Mission and the Clinton Global Initiative. Once hired in this White House, these people will be filling senior government jobs for decades to come.

Obama began his career as an organizer. His mobility agenda floundered because the governing majority he needed to push it forward does not exist.

He has the chance to remedy that, to organize, to convene, to build, and to make life a lot easier for the next swimmer in the race.



A vendor sells cotton candy at Safeco field during a baseball game between the Tampa Bay Rays and the Seattle Mariners, in Seattle. A new study published Monday, Feb. 3, 2014 in the journal, JAMA Internal Medicine, says diets high in sugar are linked with increased risks for fatal heart disease, and it doesn't take that much extra sugar to boost the risk, anything more than a 20-ounce Mountain Dew soda a day.

(AP Photo/Ted S. Warren)

US Study Links Sugar, Heart Disease Deaths

LINDSEY TANNER
AP Medical Writer
CHICAGO (AP) —

Could too much sugar be deadly? The biggest U.S. study of its kind suggests the answer is yes, at least when it comes to fatal heart problems.

It doesn't take all that much extra sugar, hidden in many processed foods, to substantially raise the risk, the researchers found, and most Americans eat more than the safest amount.

Being in the highest risk category in the study means your chance of dying prematurely from heart problems is nearly three times greater than for people who eat only foods with little added sugar.

For someone who normally eats 2,000 calories daily, even consuming two 12-ounce (340-gram) cans of soda substantially increases the risk. For most

American adults, sodas and other sugary drinks are the main source of added sugar.

Lead author Quanhe Yang of the U.S. Centers of Disease Control and Prevention called the results sobering and said it's the first nationally representative study to examine the issue. Scientists aren't certain exactly how sugar may contribute to deadly heart problems, but it has been shown to increase blood pressure and levels of unhealthy cholesterol and triglycerides; and also may increase signs of inflammation linked with heart disease, said Rachel Johnson, head of the American Heart Association's nutrition committee and a University of Vermont nutrition professor.

Yang and colleagues analyzed national health surveys between 1988 and

2010 that included questions about people's diets. The authors used national death data to calculate risks of dying during 15 years of follow-up.

Overall, more than 30,000 American adults aged 44 on average were involved. Previous studies have linked diets high in sugar with increased risks for non-fatal heart problems, and with obesity, which can also lead to heart trouble. But in the new study, obesity didn't explain the link between sugary diets and death.

That link was found even in normal-weight people who ate lots of added sugar.

"Too much sugar does not just make us fat; it can also make us sick," said Laura Schmidt, a health policy specialist at the University of California, San Francisco. She wrote an editorial accompanying the study

in Monday's JAMA Internal Medicine.

The researchers focused on sugar added to processed foods or drinks, or sprinkled in coffee or cereal. Even foods that don't taste sweet have added sugar, including many brands of packaged bread, tomato sauce and salad dressing. Naturally occurring sugar, in fruit and some other foods, wasn't counted.

Most health experts agree that too much sugar isn't healthy, but there is no universal consensus on how much is too much.

U.S. government dietary guidelines issued in 2010 say "empty" calories including those from added sugars should account for no more than 15 percent of total daily calories.

The average number of daily calories from added sugar among U.S. adults was about 15 percent to-

ward the end of the study, slightly lower than in previous years.

The authors divided participants into five categories based on sugar intake, from less than 10 percent of daily calories — the safest amount — to more than 25 percent.

Most adults exceed the safest level; and for 1 in 10 adults, added sugar accounts for at least 25 percent of daily calories, the researchers said.

The researchers had death data on almost 12,000 adults, including 831 who died from heart disease during the 15-year follow-up.

They took into account other factors known to contribute to heart problems, including smoking, inactivity and excess weight, and still found risks for sugar.

As sugar intake increased, risks climbed steeply. □